### Maternal Risks of Cesarean Birth

**Physiologic**

- **ACUTE**
  - Longer hospital stay
  - Increased pain and fatigue
  - Slower return to normal activities and productivity
  - Delayed and difficult breastfeeding
  - Anesthesia complications
  - Postpartum hemorrhage
  - Wound infection
  - Deep vein thrombosis
  - Maternal death

- **LONG TERM & SUBSEQUENT**
  - Subsequent cesarean births
  - Abnormal placentation (placenta previa and placenta accreta) resulting in increased risk of severe morbidity, life-threatening hemorrhage, and hysterectomy
  - Uterine rupture
  - Surgical adhesions
  - Bowel injury
  - Bowel obstruction
  - Delayed interval from incision to birth (neonatal risk)

**Psychological**

- **ACUTE**
  - Delayed and/or ineffective bonding with neonate
  - Maternal anxiety

- **LONG TERM & SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCIES**
  - Postpartum anxiety and depression
  - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

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### Table 1. Summary of Neonatal Risks Associated with Scheduled Cesarean Birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neonatal Risks of Scheduled Cesarean Birth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher risk of respiratory morbidity (respiratory distress syndrome, transient tachypnea of the newborn, and infections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher NICU admission rates</td>
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<td>Prolonged length of stay in NICU</td>
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<td>Increased risk of asthma requiring hospitalization and inhaler use in childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty with breastfeeding</td>
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