

Figure 3. Summary of Maternal Risks Associated with Cesarean Birth 48-50

Maternal Risks of Cesarean Birth

Physiologic

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)

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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

Psychological

ACUTE

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

LONG TERM & SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCIES

- Postpartum anxiety and depression
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Table 1. Summary of Neonatal Risks Associated with Scheduled Cesarean Birth^{11-13,32-36}

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