



Italian Journal of Gynæcology & Obstetrics

June 2025 - Vol. 37 - N. 2 - Quarterly - ISSN 2385 – 0868

Active management of labour *versus* expectant management of primiparous women with a prolonged latent phase: a randomized trial

Mohamed Derbel^{1,2}, Oussema Bardaa^{1,2,*}, Fatma Chaker^{1,2}, Fatma Khanfir^{1,2}, Hana Hakim^{1,2}, Jihen Jedidi^{2,3}, Khaled Trigui^{1,2}, Kais Chaabane^{1,2}

¹ Department of Gynecology, Hedi Chaker Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia.

² Faculty of Medicine of Sfax, University of Sfax, Sfax, Tunisia.

³ Department Preventive Medicine, Habib Borgiba Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia.

ARTICLE INFO

History

Received: 27 July 2024

Received in revised form: 22 September 2024

Accepted: 24 October 2024

Available online: 30 June 2025

DOI: 10.36129/jog.2024.191

Key words

Caesarean; vaginal delivery; latent phase of labour; expectant management; patient satisfaction.

*Corresponding author: Oussema Bardaa.

Department of Gynecology, Hedi Chaker Hospital, Street Ain, 1006 Sfax, Tunisia.

Email: Bardaaoussema@hotmail.fr.

ORCID: 0009-0001-5572-3615.

ABSTRACT

Objective. Our study aimed to compare the outcomes of expectant management to those of active management strategy in the case of a prolonged latent phase.

Patients and Methods. We included 340 primiparous women with spontaneous labour beginning and with prolonged latent phase. Only single evolutive pregnancies with cephalic presentation were included. For Active Management Group (AMG), the intervention was an amniotomy followed by an oxytocin infusion. For the expectant management group (EMG), amniotomy and oxytocin infusion were not performed unless indicated.

Results. The caesarean section rate was 27.6% for the EMG *versus* 43.5% for the AMG ($p < 0.001$). Immediate complications were found in 18.2% of patients for the AMG *versus* 2.9% for the EMG ($p < 0.001$). 93.5% of newborns for the EMG had an APGAR score between 8 and 10 *versus* 84.7% for the AMG ($p = 0.01$). Medical reanimation was required for 25 newborns after AMG and for 10 cases with EMG ($p = 0.01$). Five newborns for EMG (2.9%) and 15 newborns for GPA (8.8%) were admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit ($p = 0.03$). The mean duration of the latent phase was 20 hours and 38 minutes for the EMG *versus* 13 hours and 19 minutes for the AMG ($p < 0.001$). The average duration of the active phase, for patients who had vaginal birth, was 5 hours and 14 minutes for the EMG *versus* 3 hours and 58 minutes for the AMG ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions. The active attitude has shown several disadvantages: it gives a higher caesarean section rate, more maternal complications, less safety for the newborn, and a longer hospital stay with less satisfied parturient. Expectant management to manage the prolonged latent phase seems to be an effective alternative.

INTRODUCTION

Labour is defined by the association of painful, close, and regular uterine contractions. The first stage

of labour begins with the first uterine contractions and ends with complete cervical dilation to 10 centimetres. This stage is divided into two phases: the latent phase and the active phase.

Labour is defined by the association of painful, close and regular uterine contractions, gradually increasing in frequency and duration, with changes in the cervix (the cervix shortens, centres, softens and opens to full dilation). There are 3 stages of labour:

1. Begins with the first contacts until complete dilation of the cervix. This first stage itself comprises two phases: the latent phase and the active phase [1].
2. Begins at full dilation and ends with the birth of the baby.
3. Delivery (expulsion of placenta and membranes).

The duration of the latent phase of labour is variable and can reach 20 hours [2]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a prolonged latent phase is the absence of cervical dilation beyond four or six centimetres after eight hours of regular uterine contraction [3-6]. In this situation, parturient women are more likely to be exposed to medical interventions with a higher rate of emergency caesarean sections. There is no consensus regarding the management of these patients [7].

Thus, face to this situation, two attitudes are possible: expectant management consisting of letting labour take place spontaneously, and active management with amniotomy and infusion of oxytocin. The indications and the reported outcomes of these two management strategies by the different teams are different [7]. Thus, our study aimed to compare the outcomes of active and expectant management in the case of a prolonged latent phase.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Study registration, ethical and methodological standards

We undertook a randomized comparative prospective study in the Gynecology and Obstetrics Department of the Hedi Chaker University Hospital in Sfax, Tunisia, for six months between 1 July 2021 and 31 December 2021.

The study was registered in the Pan-African clinical trial on 07/08/2023 under the number PACTR202308714803965. The study was approved by the ethics committee of Protection of People South, Sfax. Approval was granted by the ethics committee of Protection of People South, Sfax (ID: 0371/2021) (Approval date: December 22, 2021).

All methods were performed according to the relevant guidelines and regulations set out by the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Proof of consent to participate can be requested at any time.

The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are not publicly available due to patient privacy but are available from the corresponding author.

Study population with selection criteria

We included in our study:

- A prolonged latent phase of labour (the absence of cervical dilation beyond four centimetres after eight hours of regular uterine contractions (the contraction force must exceed 200 Montevideo within 10 minutes).
- Primiparous women.
- Women with a singleton evolutive pregnancy with cephalic presentation.
- Women with spontaneous beginning of labour.
- Foetal weight between 2000 grams (g) and 4,000 g.
- Bishop score ≥ 6 .
- No contraindications to vaginal birth.
- Term of pregnancy: ≥ 37 weeks.
- A first-trimester ultrasound done.

We have not included in our study:

- Estimated foetal weight (EFW) $\geq 4,000$ g or $\leq 2,000$ g.
- Labour induction
- Contre indications to vaginal delivery.
- Scarred uterus (history of uterine surgery).
- Presence of notable pathological history contraindicating labour induction.
- Multiparity.
- Bishop score < 6 .
- Presentation other than vertex.
- Pathological ERCF.
- Unexplained placenta previa or metrorrhagia.
- Ruptured birth water bag.

Statistical analysis

All parturients were examined at admission. After obtaining the informed consent, we reported the participant's pieces of information using an investigation sheet.

Before starting this randomized prospective study, we obtained the agreement of the ethics committee. To determine the sample size, we developed a preliminary survey to estimate the number of caesarean sections among primiparous women in our population. Among 52 deliveries to primiparous patients, 18 had a caesarean delivery (34%).

To calculate the sample size, we used the following formula:

$$n = NZ^2pq / e^2$$

where: N = sample size; e = precision (0.05), Z = the statistic corresponding to level of confidence (1,96); p = estimated rate of caesarean section in primiparous women, q = 1-p;

Thus, the estimated sample size was 345 patients, 170 patients per group, with a power of 80%, a risk of alpha error of 5%, $\Delta = 14\%$, and an increase of 10%.

All data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software, version 2022.

Patient and public involvement

Randomization was carried out after checking the inclusion and non-inclusion criteria. The participants were randomized into two groups using the Sealed Envelope method after drawing lots. Thus, two groups were defined:

- The Active Management Group (AMG): the intervention consisted of an amniotomy followed by an infusion of oxytocin. The time between amniotomy and oxytocin infusion is 1 hour if there is no good contractile regime. Patients with increased oxytocin levels were monitored by foetal heart rate recording and tocography.

The initial dose administered was 4 mIU per minute, with a dose increasing of 2 mIU every 20 minutes (without exceeding 30 mIU/min). To consider the uterine contraction as adequate, the contraction force must exceed 200 Montevideo within 10 minutes.

- The expectant management group (EMG): we defined the failure of the expectant management as the absence of more than 3 cm cervical dilation after 24 hours of adequate uterine contractions (to consider the uterine contraction as adequate, the contraction force must exceed 200 Montevideo within 10-minutes).

Active management (amniotomy and/or oxytocin infusion) could be required in case of stagnation of cervical dilation for more than 2 hours or an abnormal foetal heart rate. In this case, as part of the intention-to-treat analysis, these patients were maintained in the expectant management group.

Outcomes

The primary outcome was the caesarean section rate. The secondary outcomes of management were maternal complications, neonatal outcomes, duration of labour for patients who have given birth

vaginally, patient satisfaction on the Likert scale (before discharge, each patient was asked about her satisfaction with the labour progression and immediate postpartum outcomes):

How satisfied are you with the progress of labour?

1. Very satisfied
2. Somewhat satisfied
3. Somewhat dissatisfied
4. Very dissatisfied

How satisfied are you with the immediate post-partum?

1. Very satisfied
2. Somewhat satisfied
3. Somewhat dissatisfied
4. Very dissatisfied

RESULTS

In our study, 340 women were randomized into two groups. The AMG included 170 patients, and the EMG was composed of 170 women (**Figure 1**). In the EMG, 31 parturients underwent amniotomy for pathological foetal heart rate or protracted dilation and no patient had oxytocin infusion. These patients were maintained in the same group for the intention-to-treat analysis.

The average age of parturients was 26 years. BMI of 27.33 Kg/m². The average gestational age of the patients was 40 weeks. All pregnancies were well monitored. According to the baseline characteristics of the parturients, both groups were comparable as well as concerning the newborn characteristics (the aspect of the amniotic fluid, and birth weight) (**Table 1**).

The rate of caesarean section was 35.6% in the total study population. The AMG was associated with

Table 1. Comparison of patients' characteristics in the EMG versus AMG.

	EMG (n = 170)	AMG (n = 170)	P-value
Age (average in years)	26.11	26.87	0.13
BMI (Kg/m ²)	26.98	27.68	0.41
Gestational age	39 weeks + 5 days	40 weeks + 2 days	0.45
Pregnancy monitoring (> 5 pre-natal consultations)	83.5%	86.5%	0.44
BISHOP score = 8	69.4%	68.2%	0.67
Clear amniotic fluid	85.3%	75.9%	0.08
Weight of the newborn at birth	3188.24	3273.53	0.38
Funicular abnormalities	15.88%	12.94%	0.7

*EMG: expectant management group; AMG: Active management Group; BMI: body mass index.

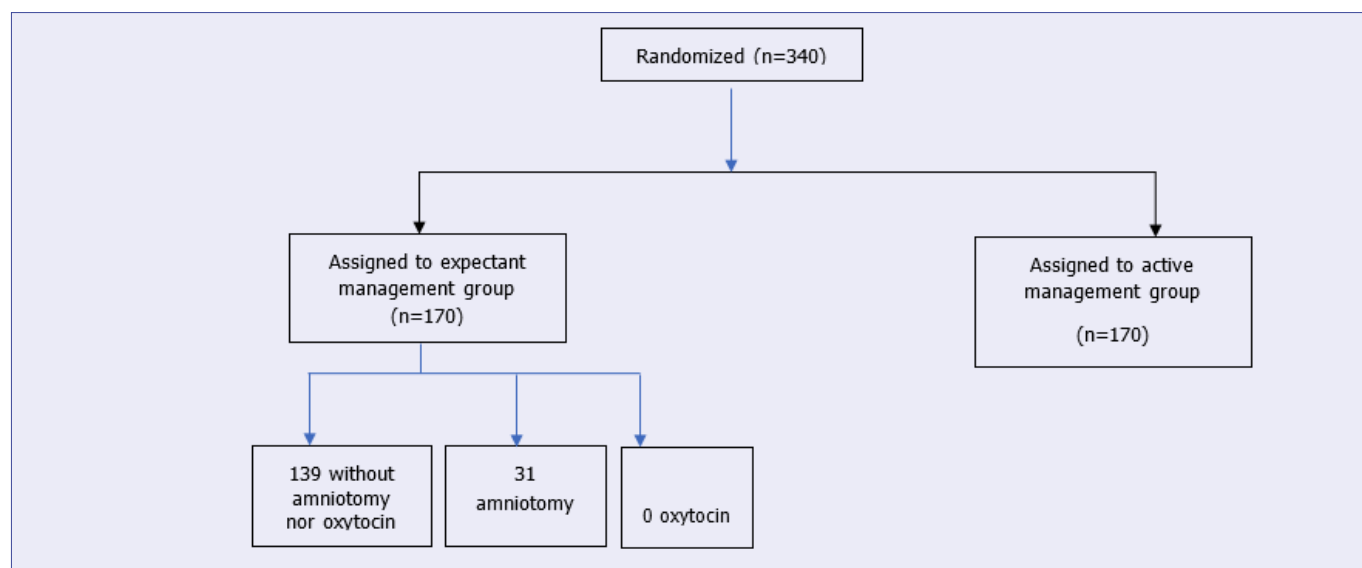


Figure 1. Study patient flow chart.

Table 2. Distribution of the population according to mode of delivery.

Type of delivery	EMG (n = 170) n (%)	AMG (n = 170) n (%)	P-value
Vaginal	115(67.6)	79 (46.5)	< 0.001
Instrumental	8 (4.7)	17 (10)	< 0.001
Caesarean section	47 (27.6)	74 (43.5)	< 0.001

EMG: expectant management group; AMG: Active management Group.

Table 3. Distribution of the population according to the indication for caesarean sections..

	EMG (n = 170) n (%)	AMG (n = 170) n (%)	P-value
Abnormal foetal heart rate	23 (48.9)	51 (68.9)	0.028
Prolonged latent phase	7 (14.9)	9 (12.2)	0.66
Protracted dilation	7 (14.9)	4 (5.4)	0.077
Protracted foetal head descent	9 (19.1)	6 (8.1)	0.072
Intrauterine infection	1 (2.1)	4 (5.4)	0.64

EMG: expectant management group; AMG: Active management Group.

Table 4. Repartition of patients according to postpartum immediate complications.

	EMG (n = 170) n (%)	AMG (n = 170) n (%)	P-value
Maternal complications	5 (2.9)	31 (18.2)	< 0.001
Immediate postpartum haemorrhage	4 (2.4)	21 (12.4)	< 0.001
Cervical laceration	0 (0)	3 (1.8)	0.08
Perineal tears	2 (1.2)	10 (5.9)	0.019
Perineal haematoma	0 (0)	1 (0.6)	0.31
Other complications	0 (0)	1 (0.6)	0.31

EMG: expectant management group; AMG: Active management Group.

a more important caesarean section rate than the EMG with a statistically significant difference (respectively 43.5% versus 27.6%, $p < 0.001$). The main indication for caesarean section was abnormal foetal heart rate, which was more frequently reported in the AMG with a significant difference ($p = 0.028$). The total instrumental delivery rate was 7.4%. This rate was significantly higher in the active management group ($p < 0.001$). The main indication for instrumental delivery was abnormal foetal heart rate with no significant difference between both management groups (Tables 2, 3).

Immediate maternal complications were reported in 36 cases and were more frequent in the AMG with a significant difference. The most frequent maternal complication was postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), which was more frequent in AMG with a considerable difference between the two groups. The rate of late postpartum complications was similar in the two groups (Table 4).

The average hospital stay duration was 38 hours. This duration was higher in the AMG with a significant difference ($p = 0.0001$).

For neonatal outcomes, an APGAR score superior to 8 at the first minute was reported in 93.5% of cases in the EMG group versus 84.7% of cases in the AMG, with a significant difference between the two groups ($p = 0.01$). At the fifth minute, the APGAR score had improved for the entire population.

Medical resuscitation of the newborn was required in 10% of cases and admission to the neonatology department was necessary in 6% of cases. Those rates were significantly more frequent in the AMG (respectively $p = 0.01$ and $p = 0.03$). Similarly, neo-

Table 5. Repartition of patients according to neonatal outcomes.

	EMG (%)	AMG (%)	P-value
Neonatal Resuscitation	5.9	14.7	0.01
Admission to the neonatology department	2.9	8.8	0.03
Neonatal complications	2.94	11.2	0.02
Respiratory acute syndrome	2.4	9.4	0.03

EMG: expectant management group; AMG: Active management Group.

Table 6. Comparison of labour and delivery outcomes in the EMG versus AMG.

	EMG (%)	AMG (%)	P-value
Type of delivery (N %)			
Vaginal	115(67.6)	79 (46.5)	< 0.001
Instrumental	8 (4.7)	17 (10)	< 0.001
Caesarean section	47 (27.6)	74 (43.5)	< 0.001
Immediate maternal complications (n %)			
Post partum haemorrhage	4 (2.4)	21 (12.4)	< 0.001
Perineal tears	2 (1.2)	10 (5.9)	0.04
Cervical laceration	0 (0)	3 (1.8)	0.08
Perineal hematoma	0 (0)	1 (0.6)	0.31
APGAR at 5 min			
≤ 3	0 (0)	0 (0)	>0.05
Between 4 and 7	1 (0.6)	1 (0.6)	>0.05
≥ 8	169 (99.4)	169 (99.4)	>0.05
Neonatal resuscitation	10 (5.9)	25 (14.7)	0.01
Neonatal hospitalization	5 (2.9)	15 (8.8)	0.03
Mean duration of labour for patients who had a vaginal birth (hours)			
Duration between randomization and vaginal delivery	15.79 (SD = 2.35)	8.44 (SD = 1.79)	0.0001
Active phase duration	5.24 (SD = 0.68)	3.97 (SD = 0.59)	< 0.001
Latent phase duration	20.63 (SD = 2.31)	13.32 (SD = 1.72)	< 0.001
Satisfaction of parturients (n %)			
For the labour progression	140 (82.4)	116 (68.2)	<0.001
For immediate postpartum	163 (95.9)	155 (91.2)	> 0.05

EMG: expectant management group; AMG: Active management Group; SD: standard deviation.

natal complications dominated by acute respiratory distress were higher in the AMG (Table 5).

The average duration between randomization and vaginal delivery was 15 hours and 47 minutes for the EMG versus 8 hours and 26 minutes for the AMG ($p = 0.001$), for patients who have given

birth vaginally. The average duration of the latent phase was 20 hours and 38 minutes for the EMG and 13 hours and 19 minutes for the AMG with a very significant difference ($p < 0.001$) for patients who have given birth vaginally.

The average duration of the active phase was 5 hours and 14 minutes for the EMG and 3 hours and 58 minutes for the AMG with a significant difference ($p < 0.001$) for patients who have given birth vaginally.

Concerning the parturients' satisfaction, 68.2% of the AMG were satisfied for the labour progression versus 82.4% for the EMG; $p = 0.003$. For immediate postpartum satisfaction, the majority of patients were delighted with no significant difference. Table 6 summarizes the different outcomes for the two management groups.

DISCUSSION

Main findings

The increase in the rate of caesarean section remains a major concern in Tunisia and even throughout the world. The prolonged latent phase of labour is a common indication for active management by amniotomy and oxytocin infusion to shorten the labour duration.

We present here the first Tunisian study comparing the results of expectant management with those of active management in the event of a prolonged latent phase.

Our study showed that expectant management reduced the rate of caesarean sections and could avoid both maternal and foetal complications and similar results were reported by several studies.

Strengths and limitations

This study was the first prospective randomized study carried out in Tunisia with a size calculated from the data of a pre-survey, which allows high scientific-level results. In addition, sociodemographic characteristics, medical history, and examination at admission were comparable between the two groups permitting pertinent statistical analyses. The sample size may also seem limited compared to the international literature data, but it is a large size compared to the Tunisian studies. However, after randomization, the follow-up of the patients was ensured by several contributors (resident on call, midwife) which can be a source of bias, even if the investigating doctor was the

same. In our series, no patient benefited from epidural analgesia. Knowing the contribution of the epidural in obstetrical dynamics, the non-installation of the epidural in all patients could constitute a bias in our study. Finally, the monocentric nature of the study can limit the possibility of generalizing the outcomes, which suggests prospects for a multicentre study to conclude with definitive results.

Interpretation and comparison with other literature

Our study showed that expectant management reduced the rate of caesarean sections and could avoid both maternal and foetal complications and similar results were reported by several studies. Rossen *et al.* undertook a cohort study including 20,227 women with singleton pregnancies ≥ 37 weeks, cephalic presentation, spontaneous labour, and no history of caesarean section. Before the protocol's implementation, oxytocin was used if the progress of labour was perceived as slow. After initiation, oxytocin can only be administered if there is an indication to accelerate delivery. The overall rate of emergency caesarean sections decreased from 6.9% to 5.3% ($p < 0.05$) and the rate of emergency caesarean sections performed due to foetal distress was reduced from 3.2% to 2.0% ($p = 0.01$) [8].

In a study reported by Van Royen *et al.* the medical-surgical and obstetrical centre in Schiltigheim concerning the use of oxytocin in the latent phase, 193 patients were included. The authors concluded that the use of oxytocin significantly increased the rate of caesarean sections ($p = 0.02$) as well as the rate of instrumental delivery ($p = 0.01$) [9].

In addition, Raba and colleagues reported that caesarean deliveries were noted in 16.97% of women in the AMG (16.97%) versus 8.85% in the control group ($p < 0.001$) [10].

Other studies have also shown an increase in the rate of caesareans for women in the latent phase who underwent labour management [11-13]. Bailit *et al.* [11] evaluated all low-risk women with full-term pregnancies. The authors concluded that women admitted in the latent phase had more caesarean deliveries (14.2% versus 6.7%) and this can be explained by an active attitude using oxytocin and the use of amniotomy to accelerate labour.

In the same context, Holmes *et al.* concluded that women presented with a cervical dilation less than 3 cm were more likely to undergo amniotomy and

oxytocin infusion than those who present at more advanced labour and that the caesarean section rate of these women is also significantly more increased (10.3% versus 4.2%) [12].

In our study, we noted immediate postpartum haemorrhage in 7.4% of cases. The literature reported similar rates varying from 5 to 10% [14]. Our results showed a low postpartum haemorrhage rate for EMG. Prolonged exposure to oxytocin during labour is associated with uterine atony and can increase the risk of postpartum haemorrhage due to desensitization of oxytocin receptors [15].

Tran and colleagues performed a retrospective study including 490 and concluded that an increased oxytocin recovery interval was associated with a decrease in blood loss during caesarean section among women with directed labour [15]. Furthermore, a study carried out in the Port Royal maternity reported a significant association ($p = 0.015$) between compliance with the latent phase and the reduction in the rate of haemorrhage during delivery [16].

Concerning the neonatal outcomes, we reported a lower rate of resuscitation in the delivery room and admission to neonatology in the EMG. Similarly, the study carried out by Hidalgo-Lopezosa *et al.* showed a significant difference in the pH of umbilical cord blood in primiparas, but no significant differences were found concerning either 5-minute APGAR scores or neonatal resuscitation rates [17]. The neonatal results of this study are comparable with those of previous studies, in which oxytocin use was associated with lower umbilical cord pH values compared to unexposed mothers [16, 17].

According to a study carried out in the Port Royal maternity hospital [16], a significant association was found between expectant management and a lower rate of neonatal resuscitation (12.8% for the AMG and 5.3% for the EMG). A significant difference was reported for the 5-minute APGAR score, the umbilical cord pH, and the immediate admission to neonatal intensive care ($p < 0.05$).

However, the active management of the prolonged latent phase allowed to shorten the duration of labour, saving occupation time in the delivery room at the expense of a longer hospital stay, with a very significant difference.

The study carried out by Nachum and colleagues compared amniotomy, oxytocin, or both for the acceleration of labour in the prolonged latent phase [7]. The duration between the intervention and

delivery was shorter in the case of active management (7 hours *versus* 12.33 hours in the control group, $p < 0.001$).

In addition, the duration between intervention and delivery was significantly longer for the control group compared to the active management group ($p < 0.005$) [20]. In the study carried out by Sargunam *et al.*, in central Malaysia, the duration of the latent phase was 9.6 ± 10.2 for the AMG *versus* 29.6 ± 18.5 h for the EMG ($p < 0.001$) [21].

The EMG was associated with a higher satisfaction rate concerning the labour process (82.4% *versus* 68.2%). For immediate postpartum satisfaction, the majority of patients were delighted with no significant difference.

Some authors highlight specific indicators of satisfaction, such as women's active participation in the birth process, which increases childbirth satisfaction and positive long-term memory [20].

A systematic review showed that the factors involved in a woman's satisfaction were the consideration of her expectations, the support provided by health professionals, the quality of her relationship with them, and her participation in decision [21]. Indeed, the presence of pain does not necessarily reflect a negative childbirth experience, pain can coexist with satisfaction [22].

Furthermore, a Malaysian study on induction of labour demonstrated that maternal satisfaction is associated with a shorter interval between induction and delivery [25]. A recent study also reported that women's perception of the healthcare quality, childbirth experience, and feelings were associated with the latent phase duration [26].

However, Sargunam *et al.* reported that, despite having a significantly shorter intervention until delivery, women who underwent expectant management showed better satisfaction with the delivery process and with the outcome of the baby but with no significant difference [21].

In our study, patients in the AMG were less satisfied with the childbirth experience despite the shorter labour duration. This can be explained by the high rate of emergency caesarean sections in this group, which causes a stressful situation for the patient and influences the quality of satisfaction.

CONCLUSIONS

The active attitude compared to the expectant at-

titude to manage the prolonged latent phase has shown several disadvantages. Active management is associated with more caesarean sections, more maternal complications, less safety for the newborn, and longer hospital stays with less satisfaction rate.

According to this study, as well as to the results reported in the literature, expectant management in the case of the prolonged latent phase seems to be an effective alternative and we suggest its generalization.

COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS

Authors' contributions

O.B., M.D.: Conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis. O.B., M.D., F.C., F.K.: Writing – original draft, writing – review & editing.

Funding

None.

Study registration

The study was registered in the Pan-African clinical trial on 07/08/2023 under the number PACTR202308714803965. We started our work and at the same time registered in the pan African clinical trial but the steps in the pan African trial take time. That's why the final registration comes after the start of the work.

Disclosure of interests

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interests.

Ethical approval

The study was approved and granted by the Ethics Committee of Protection of People South, Sfax (ID: 0371/2021 - approval date: December 22, 2021).

Informed consent

Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Proof of consent to participate can be requested at any time.

Data sharing

The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are not publicly available due to patient privacy but are available from the corresponding author.

REFERENCES

- Friedman EA, Cohen WR. The active phase of labor. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2023;228(5S):S1037-49. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2021.12.269.
- Smyth RM, Alldred SK, Markham C. Amniotomy for shortening spontaneous labour. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2007;(4):CD006167. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD006167.pub2. Update in: *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2013;(1):CD006167. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD006167.pub3.
- Cheng YW, Shaffer BL, Bryant AS, Caughey AB. Length of the first stage of labor and associated perinatal outcomes in nulliparous women. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2010;116(5):1127-35. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0b013e3181f5eaf0.
- Zhang J, Troendle JF, Yancey MK. Reassessing the labor curve in nulliparous women. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2002;187(4):824-8. doi: 10.1067/mob.2002.127142.
- Maghoma J, Buchmann EJ. Maternal and fetal risks associated with prolonged latent phase of labour. *J Obstet Gynaecol.* 2002;22(1):16-9. doi: 10.1080/01443610120101637.
- Cohen WR, Friedman EA. The latent phase of labor. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2023;228(5S):S1017-24. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2022.04.029.
- Nachum Z, Garmi G, Kadan Y, Zafran N, Shalev E, Salim R. Comparison between amniotomy, oxytocin or both for augmentation of labor in prolonged latent phase: a randomized controlled trial. *Reprod Biol Endocrinol.* 2010;8:136. doi: 10.1186/1477-7827-8-136.
- Rossen J, Østborg TB, Lindtjørn E, Schulz J, Eggebø TM. Judicious use of oxytocin augmentation for the management of prolonged labor. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand.* 2016;95(3):355-61. doi: 10.1111/aogs.12821.
- Van Royen L. Use of oxytocin during the latency phase: retrospective study carried out at the medical-surgical and obstetrical center in Schiltigheim. *Strasbourg, 2017.*
- Raba G, Baran P. Wyniki położnicze porodów wspomaganych oksytocyna oraz porodów przebiegających spontanicznie--analiza 2198 porodów [Obstetric outcomes in oxytocin-related and spontaneous deliveries--analysis of 2198 cases]. *Ginekol Pol.* 2009;80(7):508-11. Polish.
- Bailit JL, Dierker L, Blanchard MH, Mercer BM. Outcomes of women presenting in active versus latent phase of spontaneous labor. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2005;105(1):77-9. doi: 10.1097/01.AOG.0000147843.12196.00.
- Holmes P, Oppenheimer LW, Wen SW. The relationship between cervical dilatation at initial presentation in labour and subsequent intervention. *BJOG.* 2001;108(11):1120-4. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2003.00265.x.
- Rota A, Antolini L, Colciago E, Nespoli A, Borrelli SE, Fumagalli S. Timing of hospital admission in labour: latent versus active phase, mode of birth and intrapartum interventions. A correlational study. *Women Birth.* 2018;31(4):313-8. doi: 10.1016/j.wombi.2017.10.001.
- Deneux-Tharaux C, Bonnet MP, Tort J. Épidémiologie de l'hémorragie du post-partum [Epidemiology of post-partum haemorrhage]. *J Gynecol Obstet Biol Reprod (Paris).* 2014;43(10):936-50. French. doi: 10.1016/j.jgyn.2014.09.023.
- Tran G, Kanczuk M, Balki M. The association between the time from oxytocin cessation during labour to Cesarean delivery and postpartum blood loss: a retrospective cohort study. *Can J Anaesth.* 2017;64(8):820-7. doi: 10.1007/s12630-017-0874-4.
- de Robien C. La phase de latence: déterminants de son respect et issues materno-foetales. Available at: <https://dumas.ccsd.cnrs.fr/dumas-01342809>.
- Hidalgo-Lopezosa P, Hidalgo-Maestre M, Rodríguez-Borrego MA. Labor stimulation with oxytocin: effects on obstetrical and neonatal outcomes. *Rev Lat Am Enfermagem.* 2016;24:e2744. doi: 10.1590/1518-8345.0765.2744.
- Selo-Ojeme D, Rogers C, Mohanty A, Zaidi N, Villar R, Shangaris P. Is induced labour in the nullipara associated with more maternal and perinatal morbidity? *Arch Gynecol Obstet.* 2011;284(2):337-41. doi: 10.1007/s00404-010-1671-2.
- Jonsson M, Nordén-Lindeberg S, Ostlund I, Hanson U. Metabolic acidosis at birth and suboptimal care--illustration of the gap between knowledge and clinical practice. *BJOG.* 2009;116(11):1453-60. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2009.02269.x.
- Package of care for active management in labour for reducing caesarean section rates in low-risk women. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2009;113(1):218-20. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0b013e3181942918.
- Sargunam PN, Bak LLM, Tan PC, Vallikkannu N, Noor Azmi MA, Zaidi SN, et al. Induction of labor compared to expectant management in term nulliparas with a latent phase of labor of more than 8 hours: a randomized trial. *BMC Pregnancy*

- Childbirth. 2019;19(1):493. doi: 10.1186/s12884-019-2602-2.
22. Tillett J. Decision making by women during the process of labor. *J Perinat Neonatal Nurs.* 2009;23(3):204-6. doi: 10.1097/JPN.0b013e-3181af396b.
 23. Hodnett ED. Pain and women's satisfaction with the experience of childbirth: a systematic review. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2002;186(5 Suppl Nature):S160-72. doi: 10.1067/mob.2002.121141.
 24. Simkin P, Bolding A. Update on nonpharmacologic approaches to relieve labor pain and prevent suffering. *J Midwifery Womens Health.* 2004;49(6):489-504. doi: 10.1016/j.jmwh.2004.07.007.
 25. Tan PC, Valiapan SD, Tay PY, Omar SZ. Concurrent oxytocin with dinoprostone pessary versus dinoprostone pessary in labour induction of nulliparas with an unfavourable cervix: a randomised placebo-controlled trial. *BJOG.* 2007;114(7):824-32. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2007.01384.x.
 26. Ängeby K, Sandin-Bojö AK, Persenius M, Wilde-Larsson B. Women's labour experiences and quality of care in relation to a prolonged latent phase of labour. *Midwifery.* 2019;77:155-164. doi: 10.1016/j.midw.2019.07.006.