

ABSTRACT

Introduction; An aggressive protocol using a single alert line partogram and an expectant protocol using two lines i.e. alert line and action line partogram have been used for the management of active labour in primies.

Objective; To compare the aggressive and expectant protocols in the management of labour in uncomplicated singleton primigravidae at a gestation of 38 – 41 weeks of pregnancy

Design and setting; A prospective randomized controlled trial was carried out at teaching hospital, Mahamodara ,Galle.

Method; three hundred women were allocated to either protocol in a random manner. In the aggressive management assessments and vaginal examinations were carried out two hourly , and oxytocin infusion was commenced if cervical dilatation is moved to the right side of the alert line. In the expectant management protocol, assessments and vaginal examinations were carried out four hourly and oxytocin infusion was commenced when the action line was reached or crossed. Thereafter assessments were carried out two hourly.

Outcome measures; Use of oxytocin duration of labour , mode of delivery , and apgar scores at 1, 5,10 minutes .

Results; Age, period of gestation, cervical dilatation at the time of recruitment to the study was similar. A markedly higher number of women received oxytocin and more women were under went operative deliveries in the aggressive management protocol compared with the expectant management protocol which was statistically significant.(P=0.03)

Conclusion; Expectant management should be used in uncomplicated singleton primigravidae at term .