

# The Cook® Cervical Ripening Balloon with Stylet

**T**he Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon with Stylet (CRBS) is one of Cook's "star products," which is a term we use to refer to products that are unique in the marketplace and are strongly preferred by physicians.

The CRBS is manufactured at Cook Spencer in department 371 for the Reproductive Health division. It was originally known as the Cervical Ripening Balloon when Cook began manufacturing and distributing it in 2007. In 2012, Cook added a stylet to assist with inserting the device into the patient, and the name was changed to the Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon with Stylet.

The device consists of two silicone balloons on the end of a catheter. If a doctor wants a pregnant woman to go into labor but her cervix isn't ready yet, then the woman might need to have her cervix "ripened." Cervical ripening is the process of making the cervix softer and thinner so the baby can pass through it. The CRBS is used to prepare the cervix for labor.

When the CRBS is used, one balloon is placed just inside the woman's cervix and the other on the outside of the cervix so that when the balloons are inflated, they put

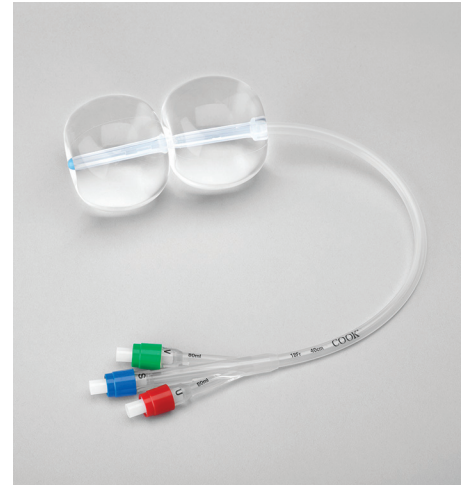
pressure on both sides of it. The inflated balloons are left in place for up to 12 hours, and the pressure from the balloons is often enough to make the labor process begin.

The CRBS is an alternative for doctors who don't want to give a woman drugs to induce labor. Drugs can cause side effects, so some doctors prefer to use the CRBS instead.

The CRBS is becoming more and more widely used because of the increased number of inductions that are being performed in hospitals. In the past, inductions were usually performed if the woman was overdue (pregnant for 41 weeks or longer) or if there were concerns about the health of the mother or baby. But new research shows that choosing to induce labor at 39 weeks is not only safe but also can avoid some complications and expenses that are associated with later births.<sup>1,2,3</sup> This practice is called elective induction.

As elective induction becomes increasingly popular, the demand for the CRBS will continue to grow.

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▲ Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon with Stylet.



▲ An illustration of the Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon with Stylet being used in the anatomy.

## Sources

1. Grobman WA, Caughey AB. Elective induction of labor at 39 weeks compared with expectant management: a meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2019;221(4):304-310.
2. Sotiriadis A, Petousis S, Thilaganathan B, et al. Maternal and perinatal outcomes after elective induction of labor at 39 weeks in uncomplicated singleton pregnancy: a meta-analysis. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol.* 2019;53(1):26-35.
3. Grobman WA, Sandoval G, Reddy UM, et al. Health resource utilization of labor induction versus expectant management. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2020;222(4):369.e1-369.e11.