

What is a Bishop Score and How Does It Impact Inductions?

Induction of labor means the artificial initiation of labor after the period of viability. In the well-dated pregnancy past 41 weeks gestation, induction of labor provides the safest alternatives for the woman and fetus to reduce the potential for fetal compromise and decrease the incidence of fetal macrosomia. Other complications of pregnancy that may require induction include pregnancy-induced hypertension, diabetes, hemolytic disease, and postmaturity.

Nearly 40 years ago (1964), Bishop (Bishop, E. Pelvic scoring for elective induction. *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 24(2), 266-268) developed a pelvic scoring system to predict inducibility by evaluating the position of the cervix as it relates to the vagina, the cervical consistency, dilation, effacement and station of the presenting part.

The higher the score, the more favorable the cervix with a clinical trial showing a score of 6-7 or more associated with successful inductions.

Bishop Scoring System				
Criteria	Scores			
	0	1	2	3
Dilation (cms)	0	1-2	3-4	5-6
Effacement (%)	0-30	40-50	60-70	80
Station	-3	-2	-1	+1, +2
Consistency	Firm	Med	Soft	---
Position	Posterior	Mid	Anterior	---