

Labor/Birth After Cesarean (L/BAC) Informed Consent
River & Mountain Midwives PLLC

We are aware that the best candidate for successful L/BAC is a healthy woman with a singleton, term pregnancy in vertex presentation. I understand my midwives may require:

1. All records from previous pregnancies including operative reports
2. Evidence of previous low transverse incision
3. A span of time greater than 18 months between previous birth and current due date
4. Informed consent, read, discussed, and signed by mother and partner
5. Pelvimetry performed by my midwives if no prior vaginal births
6. Care plan for transfer to appropriate hospital
7. Ultrasound in current pregnancy to determine placental location
8. Uncomplicated pregnancy
9. Uncomplicated labor progress

Mother's Initials: _____ Partner's Initials: _____

We have independently researched and discussed the following risks and benefits of L/BAC with our midwives:

Increased pregnancy risks due to prior cesarean:

- Placenta previa, accreta, increta or percreta
- Stillbirth, maybe unexplained

Risks of L/BAC:

- Uterine rupture, which can lead to fetal distress, maternal hemorrhage, hysterectomy and/or maternal or neonatal death
- Fetal and/or maternal distress
- Hemorrhage or complications due to placenta accreta, increta or percreta

Benefits of L/BAC:

- Avoid risks associated with repeat cesarean, including: anesthesia complications, inadvertent trauma to bowel or bladder, hemorrhage, wound infection, increased risk of newborn respiratory distress, emergency hysterectomy, birth trauma to baby, interrupted or delayed breastfeeding and bonding, emotional distress, postpartum depression
- All the benefits of homebirth and midwifery care, including: individualized midwifery care, comfort and intimacy of own environment, continuity of family unity, decreased use of prophylactic interventions and lower risk of infection
- Facilitation of breastfeeding and bonding
- Easier, faster postpartum healing

Our midwives have disclosed their education and experience with L/BAC. We agree to appropriate maternal and fetal monitoring during labor, including, but not limited to intermittent fetal heart auscultation during active labor and the second stage. We agree to follow our midwives' recommendations while in their care. We agree, if directed by the midwives, to transfer to the nearest most appropriate hospital at any time.

Mother's Initials: _____ Partner's Initials: _____

My partner and I have reviewed information regarding the risks, benefits, and current medical criteria for L/BAC, including current ACOG and ACNM guidelines and the limitations and benefits of home-based midwifery care.

We have received the Resources & References document.

Having been well informed, we, _____ and _____
choose to plan a homebirth under the care of River & Mountain Midwives PLLC.

Mother's signature: _____ Date: _____

Partner's signature: _____ Date: _____

Midwife/midwives: _____

Midwife's signature: _____ Date: _____

Midwife's signature: _____ Date: _____

Vaginal Birth After Cesarean Informed Consent Resources & References

Informed Decision Making, © 2011 Childbirth Connection
(www.childbirthconnection.org/article.asp?ck=10081)

VBAC or Repeat C-Section: What You Need to Know, © 2011 Childbirth Connection
(www.childbirthconnection.org/article.asp?ck=10212)

Best Evidence: VBAC or Repeat C-Section, © 2011 Childbirth Connection
(www.childbirthconnection.org/article.asp?ck=10210)

ACOG's practice bulletin "Vaginal Birth After Previous Cesarean Delivery", Practice Bulletin No. 115, Published August 2010 (http://www.ourbodiesourblog.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/ACOG_guidelines_vbac_2010.pdf)

The Rights of Women Seeking Vaginal Birth After Cesarean: A Primer; written by Katherine Prown, Ph.D.
(www.collegeofmidwives.org/VBAC_2006/ICAN_legalprimer_VBAC_07.pdf)

VBAC—History, Economics, Hospital Staffing – Dr Ronald Cyr, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* Sept 2002, Volume 187, Number 3.
(www.collegeofmidwives.org/VBAC_2006/DrCyr_VBAC-Economics_2002.pdf)

Not Safer and Not Cheaper? Letter to the Editor, rebutting the idea that elective cesarean is safer & cheaper: Michael Klein, MD Centre for Community Child Health Research, BC Child and Family Research, Institute, Vancouver, BC // *CMAJ* • November 7, 2006; 175 (10) © 2006
(www.collegeofmidwives.org/VBAC_2006/CMAJ_NotSaferNotCheaper_06.pdf)

International Cesarean Awareness Network
www.ican-online.org

The Unnecesarean
www.theunnecesarean.com