



# GEORGIA PERINATAL CONSULTANTS

## **INDOCIN**

### **WHAT IS INDOCIN AND WHY IS IT GIVEN?**

Indocin is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, or NSAID, frequently used to treat preterm labor.

Indocin can help delay delivery by stopping contractions. This delay allows time to receive betamethasone, a steroid given to improve a baby's lung function.

### **HOW DOES INDOCIN WORK?**

NSAIDs keep the body from making prostaglandins, substances which cause uterine contractions.

Indocin can reduce the number and frequency of contractions; however, this effect and how long it lasts varies from woman to woman.

### **WHEN AND HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED?**

Indocin is particularly effective in the second and early third trimesters. It is typically used for 48-72 hours. It can be self-administered by mouth, either at home or in the hospital.

### **WHAT SIDE EFFECTS CAN I EXPECT?**

Indocin can cause indigestion and therefore it is recommended to be taken with food. An antacid can also be added if necessary. Women with a history of ulcers as well as kidney, liver, and bleeding problems should avoid Indocin.

Indocin has other potential fetal side effects that your perinatologist will discuss.

While you are on this medication your perinatologist may require additional ultrasounds and consultations, depending on your specific circumstances, to ensure your baby's well-being. It is important you follow your perinatologist's individualized plan of care.

Contact your provider right away if you experience an allergic reaction (hives, itching, sudden swelling in face or hands, tingling or swelling in the mouth or throat, chest tightness or difficulty breathing).