**Q** Why does my doctor want to use a Foley balloon?  
The Foley balloon is one of the methods currently used to help dilate the cervix and prepare it for labor.

**Q** Is the balloon painful?  
Although every individual has a different pain threshold, most patients don’t consider the balloon painful and tolerate the insertion well.

**Q** Is it safe for my baby?  
The Foley balloon is thought to be a safe method of cervical ripening.

**Q** I’ve heard of Pitocin being used to induce labor. Why does my doctor want to use a Foley balloon instead?  
Foley balloons help soften and dilate the cervix in preparation for labor. Oxytocin (also known as Pitocin) causes uterine contractions.

**Q** How soon after the Foley balloon is inserted can I expect to deliver?  
The exact time of delivery after induction differs from patient to patient. Most women deliver within 24 hours of insertion of the Foley balloon.