

1 **Registry Study in Canada on Breech Demonstrating No Neonatal**
2 **Deaths in 9 years Suggests Vaginal Breech Is Still a Good Option**

3 The important study by Lyons et al.,¹ reports something to celebrate: no neonatal
4 deaths or intracranial hemorrhages with vaginal breech deliveries 2003-2011 in
5 Canada, an improvement from rates in 2000.² Unfortunately the conclusion,
6 “composite neonatal mortality and morbidity rates were significantly higher after
7 vaginal delivery...” when vaginal neonatal mortality is “0,” therefore misleads those
8 depending on the abstract. Grouping short-term morbidity with death inappropriately
9 puts transitory outcomes on an equal footing as serious outcomes, which has deceived
10 us before.²

11 Parents at our hospitals already accept the increased morbidity among vaginally-born
12 neonates, recognizing it will likely be temporary,² to avoid increased *maternal* deaths
13 and complications from cesareans.³ Taking instruction from new studies,⁴ we try to
14 decrease birth injuries with vaginal breeches by offering upright positioning.

15 What registry studies can't differentiate is planned breeches from undiagnosed or
16 extracted by inexperienced practitioners responding to similarly distorted reporting.
17 It's time for better training and more prospective detailed cohort studies focused on
18 improving management of vaginal breeches, rather than on cesarean comparisons to
19 avoid it.

20 **References**

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40 **Betty-Anne Daviss, MA, RM, L'Hopital Montfort, Ottawa ON, Canada**

41 **Savas Menticoglou, MDCM, FRCSC, Women's Hospital, Winnipeg MN,**
42 **Canada**

43 **Andrew Bisits, MD, FRACS, Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney, NSW,**
44 **Australia**

45

46 **357 words including authors affiliations above and references**

47 **Corresponding author:**

48 **Betty-Anne Daviss**

49 **36 Glen Ave., Ottawa ON K1S 2Z7 Canada**

50 **613-894-2229**

51 **bettyannedaviss@gmail.com**