

Water Assisted Birth

While the therapeutic effects of hydrotherapy in labor and water-assisted birth have been addressed in our journal^{1,2,3,4,5,6}, the American College of Nurse-Midwives currently has no clinical practice statement or bulletin on the topic of water-assisted birth. A Clinical Bulletin on the topic is, however, being developed. This document was created in the response to numerous inquiries we receive regarding water birth.

References:

1. Schorn MN, McAllister JL, Blanco JD. Water immersion and the effect on labor. J Nurse Midwifery 1993; 38:336-342.
2. Church LK. Water birth: one birthing center's observations. J Nurse Midwifery 1989; 34:165-170.
3. Sinquefield G. Incorporating water birth into nurse-midwifery practice. J Nurse Midwifery 1989; 34:193-197.
4. Odent M. Can water immersion stop labor? J Nurse Midwifery 1997; 42:414-416.
5. Daniels K. Water birth: the newest form of safe, gentle, joyous birth. J Nurse Midwifery 1989; 34:198-205.
6. Brown C. Therapeutic effects of bathing during labor. J Nurse Midwifery 1982; 27:13-16.

Additional selected literature:

McCandlish R, Renfrew M. Immersion in water during labor and birth: the need for evaluation. Birth 1993; 20:79-85.

Internet sites for waterbirth information, tub rental/purchase:

ACNM does not recommend or endorse any products developed for waterbirth. The following are provided for information only and their listing does not imply endorsement.

<http://www.waterbirth.org> (Waterbirth International Research, Resource and Referral Service)

<http://www.aquadoula.com> (Rents and sells AquaDoula portable spa)

<http://www.tubsntea.com> (sells Dolphin Circle Waterbirth Tub Kit)

<http://www.waterbirthinfo.com/> (waterbirth information, selling a video and materials)

<http://www.babycentre.co.uk/refcap/542614.html> (information from the UK)

<http://www.angelfire.com/biz/WaterBirth/> (information and sells pools)

The ACNM “QuickInfo” series was developed by the Department of Professional Services to respond to common inquiries, summarizing ACNM resources regarding a particular topic, as well as listing selected literature and a variety of other resources. Your feedback is welcomed; Professional Services at 240-485-1800 or info@acnm.org . 05/05/03

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