

ACUPUNCTURE

A Few Points

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S.A. Medical Acupuncture Association
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Ashton Vice

Baby Patrick: first in EL to be induced by acupuncture

Daily Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — Nine-day-old Patrick Vice enjoys the status of being the first baby here to be induced by acupuncture.

Patrick's mother, Mrs Robyn Vice, decided early in her pregnancy that she wanted to use acupuncture during labour for pain relief.

"I was opposed to having an epidural and had read up on acupuncture while in the United States, and so knew that it was effective as a pain reliever."

The decision to use acupuncture to induce baby Patrick only arose when he was ten days overdue, and Mrs Vice was advised to have the baby induced.

"The acupuncturist I consulted had been present at births where acupuncture was used to induce contractions and after he explained the procedure, I was happy it would be safe and effective."

The first acupuncture needles were administered on Sunday, June 26, at 9.40 pm. Mrs Vice said mild contractions

began almost immediately and over the next four hours, eight combinations of needles were applied to various parts of her body.

The needles are first placed near the skin surface, and then they were turned at intervals and inserted deeper. This was done to get labour progressing as it would do naturally.

Mrs Vice was later advised to further speed up her labour, as she was developing high blood pressure, by using a more commonly used drug, Prostaglandin E, but she continued to use acupuncture throughout her labour for pain relief.

"The acupuncture took the edge off the pain. I could keep my breath and I didn't feel the need to grind my teeth," she said.

The acupuncturist, who said he could not be named for professional reasons, said Prostaglandin E was used as an adjunct to the acupuncture and that it would be quite possible to use acupuncture exclusively to induce labour.



Mrs Robyn Vice with her son, Patrick Kieran Vice, who became the first East London baby to be induced by acupuncture.