

«Predicting the risk of premature birth»

Request for pregnant volunteers:

Before labour starts the neck of the womb (cervix) undergoes changes to prepare for birth. These changes include softening, shortening and opening. At present we are unable to measure these changes accurately. If we were able to do this we may be able to predict when labour may start. The purpose of this study is to assess whether a new device that measures electrical changes in the cervix (called “impedance” or “spectroscopy”) may be useful to predict when premature labour might start so that we can offer women treatment to prolong pregnancy in those found to be at high risk of premature delivery. We want to investigate whether this technique can be used routinely in antenatal care to predict premature birth.

You may be able to help us:

- **If you have had a previous premature birth or are being monitored for preterm labour.**
- **If you have *no previous history of premature birth* but want to participate as a member of the control group for comparison.**

If you require more information:

- Ask your clinician for more details regarding the project.
- Contact the project coordinator Professor Dilly OC Anumba, Consultant in Obstetrics and Fetomaternal Medicine, Jessop Wing, Tree Root Walk, Sheffield S10 2SF on 0114 226 1075 or a member of the research project team (Dr Vicky Stern, Clinical Research Fellow, Vicky.Stern@sth.nhs.uk or the Research Midwives, Room 15, Level 4, Jessop Wing, Tree Root Walk Sheffield 0114 2268514).