Understanding Obstetrical Risk
What is a reasonable risk to take?
You are at 40 weeks

What you hear:

“The risk of still birth more than doubles by the end of 42 weeks”
You just heard the *relative risk* of still birth.

What was your gut reaction?
Always get the **absolute risk** before making decisions.
Absolute risk =

How often does the bad thing happen?
Is remaining pregnant beyond 40 weeks a reasonable risk to take?
Hey YOU
Start asking questions
What are the absolute risks of still birth?

40 weeks: .87:1000
41 weeks: 1.27:1000
42 weeks: 1.55:1000
43 weeks: 2.13:1000

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Assess your risk

What factors increase my likelihood of having this happen?
What are the treatment options?

Induce now?
Wait and watch?
Induce at 41, 42, 43 weeks?
Assess the alternatives & consider waiting

What happens if we watch and wait?

Is there a chance we over-treating by acting now?

Are we treating a current, actual problem or are we treating a potential for a problem?
YOU DECIDE!
What is the difference between a variation and a complication?

*Variations* often respond to less invasive interventions or simply need time to resolve.

*Complications* require medical intervention for positive outcomes.
68% = Normal
27% = Variations
5% = Complicated
Variations often respond to less invasive interventions or simply need time to resolve.

Complications require medical intervention for positive outcomes.
What is an *intervention*?

An action, treatment or tool used to improve a situation.