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[Are babies who are "turned" by ECV still more likely to be born by caesarean section?](#)



By [Dr David Moore](#), 16 May 2014

...a little, yes.

A new systematic review [published ahead of print in Obstetrics & Gynaecology](#) this week has confirmed that the rate of women who have had a baby successfully turned from a breech to a cephalic presentation by ECV. In this study, the rate was 21%, which compares to an intrapartum caesarean section rate for women with cephalic-presenting babies of around 20%. This is a safe, simple, and scientifically valid method for women wishing to avoid caesarean section; the authors found that three ECVs are needed to prevent one caesarean section. In medicine this is called the "number needed to treat", or NNT. The lower the NNT, the better. An NNT of three is excellent.

About Dr David Moore



David is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and a Fellow of the Queensland College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He is highly skilled in the management of complex and high-risk pregnancies, and has special interests in the management of endometriosis, pelvic floor and incontinence surgery. David has completed a Master of Reproductive Medicine and is currently completing a PhD in the management of fertility problems, and can offer the full range of assisted reproductive treatments. He is a Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Queensland Medical School, and has published both medical journal and textbook contributions.

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