

## Abstract

**Background.** The latent second stage, or transitional stage, is an intermediate period between first and second stage of labour. It can express with slowing down contractions and absence of urge to push or with an unexpected feeling to bearing down.

**Objectives.** Analyse different definition of transitional stage or latent second stage, revise scientific literature to research most important anatomical and physiological causes and outline evidence based management.

**Methods.** Review the scientific literature with results classification and midwives and gynaecologists survey of acknowledgement about latent second stage management.

**Results.** *Review of scientific literature:* the latent second stage is the lapse from complete dilatation to occurrence of maternal spontaneous bearing down. This phase of labour doesn't increase disadvantageous maternal and fetal-neonatal outcomes. The evidence shows that the most appropriate management involve change of maternal position, waiting for and support spontaneous bearing down, eat and drink during labour. *Survey of acknowledgement:* the most interviews practitioners are using different definitions to describe second stage's duration and its time to delay than guideline's recommendations. To manage latent second stage midwives are using essentially waiting, maternal position change and maternal moisturizing. On the contrary, gynaecologists are using amniotomy and oxytocin, although these interventions don't be recommend.

**Conclusion.** Latent second stage is the normal halfway point from first to second stage of labour. Normal expression depends to the need to re-establish miometrial energy resources, presenting part's station and position at the complete dilatation and to the woman's variability. It is important to supervise and admit the latent second stage to promote and protect its physiological expression and active second stage beginning.