Eye mask and earplugs to improve sleep after epidural analgesia during labour at night in first-time mothers

Submission date	Recruitment status	[X] Prospectively registered		
15/01/2025	Recruiting	[X] Protocol		
Registration date	Overall study status	Statistical analysis plan		
22/01/2025	Ongoing Condition category	Results		
Last Edited		Individual participant data		
21/01/2025	Pregnancy and Childbirth	[X] Record updated in last year		

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

First-time mothers often perceive their labour to be more painful as their labour usually takes longer. These patients often choose an epidural for labour pain relief as it is the most effective method. Adequate sleep may help to shorten labour. Eye masks and earplugs have been shown to improve the sleep of patients cared for in an intensive care unit or high-dependency care unit by reducing background light and sound. An actigraphy watch will be used to objectively measure sleep parameters. After getting pain relief from an epidural sited at night, wearing an eye mask and earplugs (EMEP) may block labour room light and noise and help restore night sleep, which may be important for labour and birth. This study's main purpose is to evaluate if using EMEP can lengthen restorative night sleep in first-time mothers-to-be who need an epidural.

Who can participate?

First-time mothers-to-be aged 18 years and over who have received epidural labour pain relief, in early labour (<6 cm dilated), term gestation (≥37 weeks) and normal fetal heart rate tracing

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to use eye masks and earplugs (EMEP) as sleep aids and to wear the actigraph watch (intervention group), or to wear the actigraph watch only (control comparison group). Both groups are to record in a diary the times when sleep is attempted. The study intervention period is complete when the participants start pushing for birth or at the arrangement for a caesarean delivery. Participants will be asked to rate their score using a 0-10 scale on 'satisfaction with your sleep during labour' and 'satisfaction with pain relief from the epidural during labour' after delivery

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Eye masks and earplugs (EMEP) may lengthen sleep and improve the perceived experience of labour, but it is unclear if there will be other benefits such as shorter labour or an easier birth. Major benefits are not anticipated.

EMEP use is not expected to carry risk or cause harm. However, it is not implausible that some

women may feel deprived having slept through their labour and may not then fully perceive the entire natural labour experience.

Where is the study run from?
University of Malaya Medical Centre (Malaysia)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for? August 2024 to December 2025

Who is funding the study? University of Malaya Medical Centre (Malaysia)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Lela Nadia Khalid, lelanadiakhalid@gmail.com

Contact information

Type(s)

Public, Scientific, Principal Investigator

Contact name

Dr Lela Nadia Khalid

Contact details

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers

MECID.No: 2024825-14120

Study information

Scientific Title

Eye mask and earplugs to improve sleep after epidural analgesia during nulliparous labour at night: a randomised controlled trial

Study objectives

The use of eye mask and earplugs as sleep aids will lengthen sleep after epidural labour pain relief at night

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 12/12/2024, Medical Research Ethics Committee University Of Malaya Medical Centre (Lembah Pantai, Kuala Lumpur, 59100, Malaysia; +60 (0)379493209; iresearch@ummc.edu.my), ref: MECID.No: 2024825-14120

Study design

Single-center interventional randomized controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study setting(s)

Hospital

Study type(s)

Efficacy

Participant information sheet

See study outputs table

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Sleep duration during labour after epidural analgesia at night

Interventions

Patient recruitment will take place in the Labour Ward of University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) at epidural analgesia or within an hour of its insertion timed from 1800 to 0600 hours. Consented patients will be randomised to eye mask and earplugs (EMEP) plus actigraph watch or actigraph watch only as control. Participants randomised to EMEP shall wear the eye mask and earplugs when trying to sleep. They will also wear the actigraph watch from the epidural to pushing or decision for caesarean delivery. Participants randomised to the control arm shall wear the actigraph watch from the epidural to pushing or decision for caesarean delivery. Attempt to sleep characterised by 'time to bed' to 'time out of bed' shall be recorded and the recording of these times repeated if there were multiple attempts to sleep. The sleep diary and actigraph watch will be retrieved after delivery for actigraphy analysis. Care providers may interrupt sleep as clinically indicated at any time, to make observations, get responses or effect interventions.

Intervention Type

Device

Pharmaceutical study type(s)

Not Applicable

Phase

Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Eye mask, ear plugs, actigraph watch

Primary outcome measure

Sleep duration measured using actigraphy data assessed after delivery

Secondary outcome measures

- 1. Intervention to delivery interval as recorded from the patient's electronic medical record after delivery
- 2. Maternal satisfaction with sleep during labour measured using a 0-10 numerical rating scale after delivery
- 3. Mode of delivery from patient's electronic medical record after delivery
- 4. Indication for operative delivery (Caesarean and instrumental vaginal delivery) from patient's electronic medical record after delivery
- 5. Perineal condition from patient's electronic medical record after delivery
- 6. Estimated delivery blood loss from patient's electronic medical record after delivery
- 7. Birth weight from patient's electronic medical record after delivery
- 8. Apgar score at 1 and 5 minutes from offspring's electronic medical record after delivery
- 9. Umbilical cord artery blood pH and BE from offspring's electronic medical record after delivery
- 10. Neonatal admission from offspring's electronic medical record after delivery
- 11. Indication for neonatal admission from offspring's electronic medical record after delivery

Overall study start date

01/08/2024

Completion date

16/12/2025

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

- 1. 18 years old and above
- 2. Nulliparous (no prior pregnancy >22 weeks)
- 3. Singleton pregnancy
- 4. 37 weeks of gestation and above
- 5. Epidural analgesia sited from 1800H to 0600H
- 6. Cervical dilatation less than 6 cm
- 7. Normal fetal heart rate tracing

Participant type(s)

Patient

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Sex

Female

Target number of participants

126 participants, 63 participants each arm

Key exclusion criteria

- 1. Need for frequent monitoring
- 2. Known sleep disorders
- 3. Major hearing (using hearing aids) or visual impairment (refractive errors acceptable)
- 4. Gross fetal anomalies
- 5. Intrauterine fetal death

Date of first enrolment

31/03/2025

Date of final enrolment

16/10/2025

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Malaysia

50603

Study participating centre University Of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC)

Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya Jalan Profesor Diraja Ungku Aziz Seksyen 13 KUALA LUMPUR Malaysia

Sponsor information

Organisation

University of Malaya Medical Centre

Sponsor details

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Pusat Perubatan Universiti Malaya Jalan Profesor Diraja Ungku Aziz Seksyen 13 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia 50603 +60 (0)3-79494422 kj_obg@ummc.edu.my

Sponsor type

Hospital/treatment centre

Website

http://medicine.um.edu.my

Funder(s)

Funder type

Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

University of Malaya Medical Centre

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a peer-reviewed journal

Intention to publish date

16/05/2026

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data-sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet		09/08/2024	21/01/2025	No	Yes
<u>Protocol file</u>		08/08/2024	21/01/2025	No	No