

Table 1**Elective caesarean section versus vaginal birth**

- ▶ CS may reduce perineal and abdominal pain during birth and 3 days postpartum. It may also reduce injury to the vagina, early postpartum haemorrhage and obstetric shock
- ▶ Vaginal birth may reduce the length of stay in hospital, hysterectomy due to postpartum haemorrhage, maternal cardiac arrest and admission of the baby to neonatal ICU
- ▶ There are no differences with regards to perineal and abdominal pain 4 months postpartum
- ▶ There are no differences in injury to bladder/ureter, injury to cervix; iatrogenic surgical injury; pulmonary embolism; wound infection; intraoperative trauma; uterine rupture; assisted ventilation or intubation; acute renal failure; hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy (CNS depression, seizures, pH <7); intracranial haemorrhage or neonatal respiratory morbidity
- ▶ Studies are not conclusive about the following: maternal death; deep vein thrombosis; blood transfusion; wound infection; postpartum hysterectomy; anaesthetic complications; neonatal mortality; 5 min Apgar score <7