To estimate the prevalence of lack of progress of labor as a reason for Cesarean delivery and to compare it with other studies.

We collect data from 1661 women who delivered full term, non breech infants, by unplanned Cesarean between Jan. 2002 – Jan. 2003, in Babylon Maternity and Pediatric Hospital. There were a subset of 9551 births sampled at delivery. We measured the proportion of unplanned Cesarean done for lack of progress in labor, the cervical dilatation at the time of Cesarean, length of the second stage and slope of the active phase among the women.

Lack of progress was a reason for 69% of unplanned vertex Cesareans. At least 15% of the subjects who had Cesareans for lack of progress were in the latent phase of labor. The second stage of labor was not prolonged in 32% of women who delivered at 10cm.

Lack of progress in labor is a dominant reason for Cesarean delivery. Many Cesareans are done in the latent phase of labor and in the second stage of labor when it is not prolonged.