

## **Potential risk of prophylactic strategies for postdural puncture headache**

The risk of postdural puncture headache is estimated to be between 76% and 85% after accidental dural puncture. Although headache is self-resolving in approximately one or two weeks in most obstetric patients, you may suffer from moderate or severe headache that hinder you from taking care of yourself and your baby. The strategies that can be employed for headache prophylaxis and potential risk related to their use are as follows:

### **Epidural blood patch (conventional):**

- transient and/or chronic backache;
- intrathecal/epidural infection;
- meningitis or arachnoiditis;
- epidural or intrathecal hematoma;
- nerve damage;
- failure to prevent headache.

### **Epidural administration of hydroxyethyl starch:**

- transient backache;
- not indicated for epidural use that may be associated with unknown risk such as nerve damage, meningitis or arachnoiditis;
- intrathecal/epidural infection;
- failure to prevent headache.