

Table 1 Intervention descriptions relating to the use of ventouse, by component

Component	Steps within component	Intervention description
Device application	Cup insertion	'The rubber cup was introduced by squeezing it together and advanced towards the fetal head...' ²⁷
	Check position	'...and placed near the occipital fontanelle to ensure flexion of the vertex.' ²⁷
	Tissue check	'The maternal soft tissue was interposed between the cup and fetal scalp was cleared by digital examination.' ²⁷ [similar text for ⁴¹]
Creating a vacuum	Support cup	'With the cup gently pressed against the fetal head, the suction pressure...' ²⁷
	Increase in pressure to 0.2	'...vacuum was rapidly induced over 2-3minutes. At the pressure of 0.2 kg/cm ² the application was checked...' ⁴²
		'An initial vacuum of 20mmHg was applied for 1 minute...' ⁴³
	Tissue check	'...vacuum was rapidly induced over 2-3minutes. At the pressure of 0.2 kg/cm ² the application was checked...' ⁴² and similar text for ⁴³
	Increase in pressure to 0.8	'For both arms of the trial, the vacuum employed was 0.8kg/cm ² ' ³³ and similar text for ²⁷
		'The cups were attached to a hand-pump and the pressure was taken directly to 0.6-0.8 kg/cm ² ' ⁴⁴ and similar text for ⁴⁵
		'Negative pressure applied with the metal cup was 0.8 kg/cm ² . being gradually applied during 6 min, whereas with the Silastic cup, the pressure was immediately lowered to 1 kg/cm ² ' ⁴⁶
		'Malmström cup, vacuum was created gradually by increasing the suction by 0.2 kg/cm ² every 2 minutes until negative pressure of 0.8 kg/cm ² was reached. With the soft cup, negative pressure was increased to 0.8 kg/cm ² in 1 minute' ⁴¹
		'The vacuum pressure was then taken up directly to 45-50mmHg.' ⁴³
		'The conventional stepwise method consisted of four incremental steps of 0.2 kg/cm ² every 2 min to obtain a final negative pressure of 0.8 kg/cm ² . In the rapid methods the negative pressure of 0.8 kg/cm ² was applied in one step.' ⁴⁷ and similar text for ⁴⁸
		'Pressure was maintained to 60 mmHg during traction in the uterus contraction.' ⁴⁹
		'The highest possible level of negative pressure (usually -0.8kg/cm ²) was obtained in a single step, usually requiring 1-2 minutes, with an electric vacuum pump controlled by a foot pedal.' ⁵⁰
		'For vacuum-assisted deliveries, pressure gradients of -54 to -58 cmHg were developed over 5-10 seconds...pressure was decreased to -10cmHg between contractions.' ⁵¹
Device traction	Tissue check	'The operator immediately made a check to ensure that maternal tissue was not included under the edge of the cup' ⁵² similar text for ⁵⁰
	Monitor what?	'The non-pulling fingers were applied on the foetal scalp to detect any leakage of seal.' ⁴³
	Gentle traction with contraction	'The first pull was with the next contraction.' ⁴⁴ similar text for ⁵²
		'A continuous and even traction (in synchrony with uterine contraction) using the accoucher's body weight, was applied with the pully elbow fully extended.' ⁴³