

Premature rupture of the membranes (PROM) constitute one of the most important dilemmas in current obstetric practice. The term is applied when there is leakage of amniotic fluid in the absence of labour irrespective of gestational age. If this happens before the 37th gestational week the correct term is premature PROM (PPROM). There is further subdivision of PPRM into previable and viable.

PPROM is the classic case when a normal pregnancy suddenly becomes a high risk one for mother and the fetus or the neonate. This complication has been and is still considered as one of the most serious events.

Overall, about 10% of all gestations are complicated by PROM. Approximately 70% of PROM occurs at term, the remaining 30% at preterm.

Nearly all women with PROM will eventually deliver before term, and the majority of these women will deliver within one week of rupture regardless of their gestational age at the time of membrane rupture. PROM is an important cause for preterm delivery, an estimated 30% of these births are associated with PPRM.

Understanding and appreciating the mechanisms lying behind PROM and PPRM are of great importance, since it is associated with preterm delivery which is a major cause for neonatal morbidity and mortality. I have gathered information and research done in this field in recent time, and I try to present it in a comprehensible manner.