Common indications for Forceps and Vacuum Extractor

- Maternal exhaustion.
- Prolonged second stage of labor.
- Fetal distress in the second stage of labor, generally indicated by changes in the fetal heart-rate.
- Poor ability to push due to anesthesia.
- Malpositioned baby (forceps only).

Vacuum Extractor

A suction cup is placed onto the head of the baby and the suction draws the skin from the scalp into the cup. This device is used to help extract the baby from the vagina when a mother has trouble pushing him out. As the mother pushes, the physician or health care provider will gently withdraw the baby's head through the birth canal with the vacuum extractor.

Common Risk to the Mother

- infection
- bruising
- soft tissue damage

Other potential risks to the mother (less common)

- tear in the perineum, cervix, uterus
- long term- urinary/ fecal incontinence

Potential Risks for the Baby-

- bruising
- laceration
- caput/ cephalohematomas
- nerve and muscle trauma in the face or neck

Forceps

Forceps resemble a set of tongs with loops on either side of the grasping end of the tool. This device is used to help extract the baby from the vagina when a mother has trouble pushing him out. As the
mother pushes, the physician or health care provider will gently withdraw the baby's head through the birth canal with the forceps.

**Common Risk to the Mother**
- infection
- bruising
- soft tissue damage

Other potential risks (less common)
- tear in the perineum, cervix, uterus
- long term- urinary/ fecal incontinence

**Common Risks to the Baby**
- redness
- bruising
- laceration
- nerve and muscle trauma in the face or neck
- increased risk of shoulder dystocia

References used-
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