

ABSTRACT:

The invention describes a method for diagnosis of preterm labour in a mammal, comprising measuring levels of an endocannabinoid such as anandamide in a subject. Elevated levels are indicative of preterm labour. The measurement is typically performed during late pregnancy, such as the third trimester in humans. In certain embodiments, endocannabinoid levels may be measured indirectly, for example by measurement of fatty acid amide hydrolase (FAAH) levels.