

# POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE

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# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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- Define PPH
- Identify risk factors during the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods.
- Outline etiology for PPH
- Discuss management

# CASE

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33year G1P0, 40w2d

Uncomplicated pregnancy, followed by midwives

RH: A+

GBS: neg

EFW 54<sup>th</sup>ile, no GDM, no gHTN

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**PMHx:** depression

**Surgeries:** tonsillectomy, wisdom teeth extraction

**Meds:** Pre-natal vitamins

**Allergies:** Penicillin (rash as a kid)

# LABS

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WBC 26.6 (38.1 temp once but normalized with Tylenol – no infectious symptoms)

Hg 130

Plt 221

# LABOUR AND DELIVERY FLOOR

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- 0830: SROM (clear fluid)
- 1030: epidural placed
- 1300-1500 fully dilated/ began to start pushing
- 1600: FP-OB consulted for poor progression in 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of labour



VARIABLE DECELERATIONS ->  
I630 C-SECTION CALLED  
(CATEGORY 2)

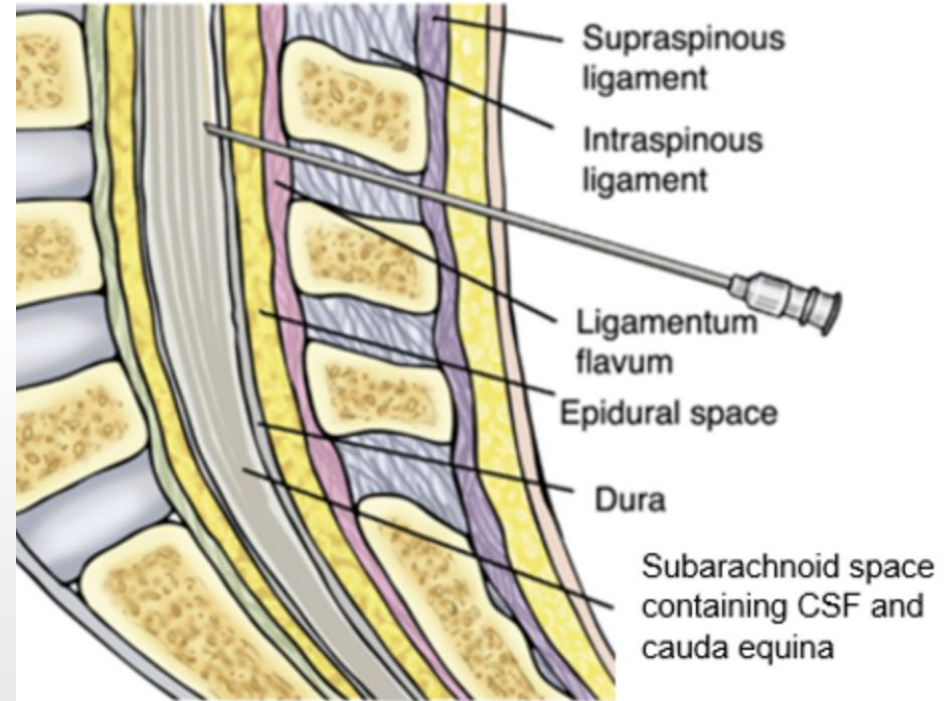
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# OPERATING ROOM

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- Patchy epidural – topped up – got pulled out 1.5cm from insertion
- FHR reassuring → spinal
- Phenylephrine infusion started



Tintinalli's Emergency Medicine: A Comprehensive Study Guide

# OPERATING ROOM

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- Head quite impacted so was removed with difficulties (OP head) (1-2min of pulling)
- Delayed cord clamping
- Placenta removed without difficulty
- Duratocin 100mcg IV given

# OPERATING ROOM

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- APGARS 8, 9 -> baby fine
- Boggy left side of uterus with expansion
- Uterus exteriorized and pressure applied
- Continued boggy and significant vaginal bleeding – second surgeon called



# OPERATING ROOM

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HR 90 -> 130s

MAP low 60s (phenylephrine infusion increased)

Vaginal bleeding on the floor

Patient starting to feel pain (90min post spinal)

Intubated – less risks than if intubating intrapartum

# OPERATING ROOM

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- No significant intra-abdominal bleeding
- Orillia OB said don't reopen – bleeding site may be retracted.
- ?Bakri balloon wasn't inserted as bleeding was improving and EMS arrived and cervix was completely dilated so less likely to be effective
- Vaginal packs applied

# OPERATING ROOM

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Hemabate  
250mcg  
(0.25mg) IM x4

Ergot 200mcg  
(0.2mg) IM x 1

TXA 1g IV x 2

3 units pRBCs

4g fibrinogen

Duratocin  
100mcg IV x1

Misoprostol  
400mcg  
(0.4mg) SL x1

Phenylephrine  
infusion

2L RL

EBL 2L

# REPEAT LABS

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WBC 24.4

Hg 130

Plt 199

INR 1

Fibrinogen 4.5

# COURSE AT RVH

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- Left uterine artery embolization
- DIC labs -> came back normal
- At RVH had hemabate, TXA, oxytocin, misoprostol
- 2u pRBC (Hg 69 at RVH) and 2 doses of IV venofer
- Breastfeeding challenging in PPH (fluids loss) -> supplemented with formula
- SDU for 2 days, then ob floor for 2 days
- Sent home 4 days later with rx for dilaudid and po iron

# PPH DEFINITION

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## CA **Canadian definition (SOGC)**

≥500 mL after vaginal delivery OR ≥1000 mL after c-section,  
OR any blood loss that causes hemodynamic instability

## us **American definition (ACOG) (2017)**

≥1000 mL cumulative blood loss within 24 hours,  
OR any blood loss with signs/symptoms of hypovolemia

# PPH ETIOLOGY

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## **Primary PPH** (within 24 hours):

- Uterine atony (**TONE**) (70%)
- Lacerations (**TRAUMA**)
- Retained/abnormally adherent placenta (**TISSUE**)
- Coagulation defects (**THROMBIN**) (e.g., DIC from amniotic fluid embolism, placental abruption, severe preeclampsia)
- Uterine inversion

# PPH ETIOLOGY/RISK FACTORS

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## **Secondary PPH** (24 hours to 12 weeks):

- Retained products of conception
- Infection
- Inherited coagulation defects (e.g., von Willebrand disease)

# PPH ANTEPARTUM RISK FACTORS

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- **Prior PPH** — one of the strongest predictors
- Placenta previa/ accreta
- No antenatal care
- Uterine fibroids and polyhydramnios (contributes to uterine overdistention)
- Advanced maternal age (>35 years) and extremes of parity (nulliparity or grand multiparity >4)
- Preeclampsia
- Obesity

# PPH INTRAPARTUM RISK FACTORS

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- **Cesarean delivery — strongest intrapartum association**
- Fetal macrosomia
- Prolonged or augmented labor and labor induction
- Precipitous delivery
- Operative vaginal delivery (forceps/vacuum)
- Episiotomy
- Shoulder dystocia



# MANAGEMENT (DRUGS)

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# CARBETOCIN VS. OXYTOCIN

## **OXYTOCIN**

- Classically given after placental delivery then infusion
- half life 5min

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## **CARBETOCIN**

(duratocin = brand name)

- analog of oxytocin binds to oxytocin receptors on uterine smooth muscle
- 40min half life
- in the OR, usually one dose only needed

# CARBETOCIN VS. OXYTOCIN – WHICH IS BETTER



The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library interface. At the top left is the Cochrane Library logo with the tagline "Trusted evidence. Informed decisions. Better health." To the right, there is a language selection dropdown set to "Review language : English" and a search box containing "Title Abstract K". Below the logo is a purple navigation bar with links for "Cochrane reviews", "Searching for trials", "Clinical Answers", "About", and "Help". The main content area shows the review title "Uterotonic agents for preventing postpartum haemorrhage: a network meta-analysis" in bold black text. Above the title are buttons for "New search", "Conclusions changed", and "Open access". Below the title is the author list: "Ioannis D Gallos<sup>a</sup>, Idnan Yunas<sup>a</sup>, Adam J Devall, Marcelina Podeseck, Aurelio Tobias, Malcolm J Price, Olufemi T Oladapo, Arri Coomarasamy". Further down, it states "Version published: 16 April 2025" and "Version history", followed by the DOI link "https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD011689.pub4" with an external link icon.

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New search Conclusions changed Open access

## Uterotonic agents for preventing postpartum haemorrhage: a network meta-analysis

✉ Ioannis D Gallos<sup>a</sup>, Idnan Yunas<sup>a</sup>, Adam J Devall, Marcelina Podeseck, Aurelio Tobias, Malcolm J Price, Olufemi T Oladapo, Arri Coomarasamy

Version published: 16 April 2025 Version history

<https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD011689.pub4>

“little or no difference in mean blood loss”

# HEMABATE

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## Carboprost tromethamine (15-methyl PGF<sub>2</sub>α)

-works on prostaglandin receptors on uterine smooth muscle cells causing contraction

-also triggers smooth receptor cells elsewhere

- GI: nausea/vomiting/diarrhea

- bronchial smooth muscle (hence **asthma contraindication**)

- vascular smooth muscle (hence contraindication for pulmonary HTN/RV failure)

-250 µg IM every 15–90 min (max 8 doses)



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ERGOT

# ERGOT

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- **Methylergonovine maleate**
- derived from the fungus *Claviceps purpurea*
- Binds at serotonergic, dopaminergic, and  $\alpha$ 1-adrenergic receptors in the uterus.
- 0.2 mg IM every 2–4 hours
- contraindicated in HTN and cardiovascular disease because of effects on BP
- **-wait 12hrs after last dose before using breastmilk as it may get into breastmilk**

# MISOPROSTOL

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- **Misoprostol** — sublingual (preferred— most rapid absorption), oral, or rectal 600–1000 µg single dose
- **synthetic prostaglandin E1 (PGE1) analogue**



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# Postpartum Hemorrhage

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**“[misoprostol] treatment of uncertain usefulness”**

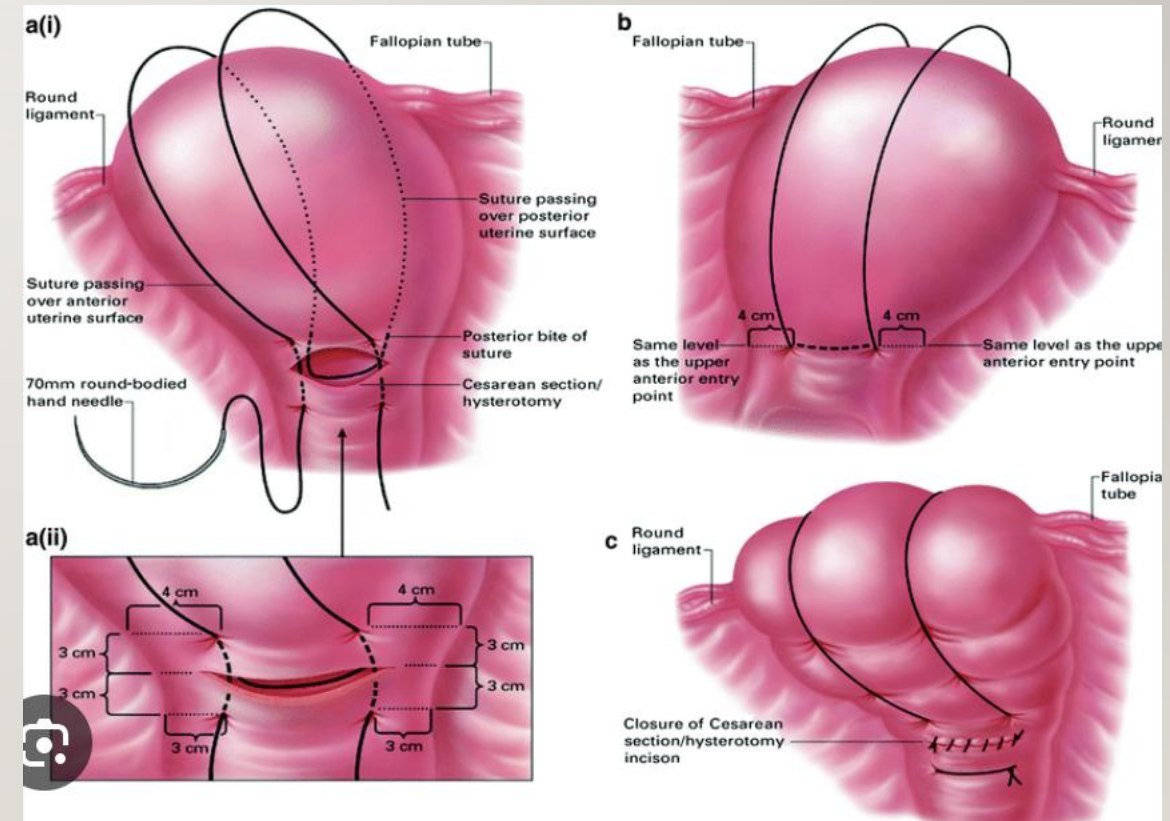
# TXA

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- IV 1 g over 10 minutes
- a second dose may be given if bleeding persists after 30 minutes or recurs within 24 hours

# MANAGEMENT (NON-DRUG OPTIONS)

- Bakri balloon – inserted vaginally
- Packing
- B-Lynch sutures
- Uterine massage
- Arterial ligation
- Hysterectomy
- Artery Embolization (pack gelatin sponge)



# CAN OUR PATIENT STILL GET PREGNANT?

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- No real guidelines after UAE or PPH
- a prior PPH confers a **3- to 4-fold increased risk** of PPH in a subsequent pregnancy





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QUESTIONS?