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Wolters Kluwer

Potential interventions for treatment of postpartum hemorrhage

Pharmacologic interventions

Drug	Dosing
Oxytocin (first-line)	10 to 40 units in 500 to 1000 mL normal saline infused at a rate sufficient to control atony or 5 to 10 units IM.
Tranexamic acid (adjunctive agent)	1 g (10 mL of a 100 mg/mL solution) is infused over 10 to 20 minutes; if bleeding persists after 30 minutes, a second 1 g dose is administered.
Ergots (second-line)	Methylergonovine 0.2 mg IM or ergonovine 0.2 mg IM every 2 to 4 hours.
Carboprost (second-line)	0.25 mg IM every 15 to 90 minutes up to 8 doses.
Misoprostol	400 to 800 mcg sublingually as a single dose.
Recombinant human factor VIIa (adjunctive agent)	50 to 100 mcg/kg. It is preferable to start with a low dose (40 or 60 mcg/kg). The dose may be repeated once in 15 to 30 minutes if there is no response. Additional doses are unlikely to be effective.

Surgical interventions

Repair lacerations
Curettage
Uterine compression suture (eg, B-Lynch suture)
Uterine artery ligation
Utero-ovarian artery ligation or cross clamp
Pelvic packing
Uterine tourniquet
Focal myometrial excision
Use of fibrin glues and patches to cover areas of oozing and promote clotting
Placement of figure 8 sutures or other hemostatic sutures directly into the placental bed
Resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA)
Internal iliac artery (hypogastric artery) ligation

Aortic/iliac artery compression
Hysterectomy, supracervical
Hysterectomy, total
Interventional endovascular procedures
Selective arterial embolization
Intermittent aortic balloon occlusion
Common iliac artery balloon occlusion
Blood bank
Packed red blood cells
Platelets
Fresh frozen plasma
Cryoprecipitate
Nonsurgical interventions
Uterine massage
Intravenous fluids
Intrauterine tamponade
Intrauterine balloon or alternative device (eg, bladder catheter bulb, Sengstaken-Blakemore tube)
Intrauterine vacuum
Uterine packing (eg, 4-inch gauge packing)
Consultations
General surgery
Trauma surgery
Anesthesia team
Interventional radiology
Gynecologic oncology
Urology

IV: intravenous; IM: intramuscular; mcg: micrograms; kg: kilogram.

Data from:

1. Dahlke JD, Mendoz-Figueroa H, Maggio L, et al. Prevention and management of postpartum hemorrhage: a comparison of 4 national guidelines. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2015; 213.e1.
2. Bienstock JL, Ahizechukwu CE, Hueppchen NA. Postpartum hemorrhage. *N Engl J Med* 2021; 384:1635.

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