

UTEROTONIC AGENTS for POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE

Drug	Dose	Route	Frequency	Side Effects	Contraindications	Storage
Pitocin® (Oxytocin) 10 units/ml	10-40 units per 500-1000 ml, rate titrated to uterine tone	IV infusion	Continuous	Usually none Nausea, vomiting, hyponatremia ("water intoxication") with prolonged IV admin. ↓ BP and ↑ HR with high doses, esp IV push	Hypersensitivity to drug	Room temp
Methergine® (Methylergonovine) 0.2 mg/ml	0.2 mg	IM (not given IV)	-Q 2-4 hours -If no response after first dose, it is unlikely that additional doses will be of benefit	Nausea, vomiting Severe hypertension, esp. if given IV, which is not recommended	Hypertension, Preeclampsia, Cardiovascular disease Hypersensitivity to drug Caution if multiple doses of ephedrine have been used, may exaggerate hypertensive response w/possible cerebral hemorrhage	Refrigerate Protect from light
Hemabate® (15-methyl PG F2a) 250 mcg/ml	250 mcg	IM or intra- myometrial (not given IV)	-Q 15-90 min -Not to exceed 8 doses/24 hrs -If no response after several doses, it is unlikely that additional doses will be of benefit.	Nausea, vomiting, Diarrhea Fever (transient), Headache Chills, shivering Hypertension Bronchospasm	Caution in women with hepatic disease, asthma, hypertension, active cardiac or pulmonary disease Hypersensitivity to drug	Refrigerate
Cytotec® (Misoprostol) 100 or 200 mcg tablets	600-800 mcg	Sublingual or oral	One time	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea Shivering, Fever (transient) Headache	Rare Known allergy to prostaglandin Hypersensitivity to drug	Room temp

BLOOD PRODUCTS

Packed Red Blood Cells (PRBC) (approx. 35-40 min. for crossmatch—once sample is in the lab and assuming no antibodies present)	Best first-line product for blood loss 1 unit = 200 ml volume If antibody positive, may take hours to days. for crossmatch, in some cases, such as autoantibody crossmatch compatible may not be possible; use "least incompatible" in urgent situations
Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) (approx. 35-45 min. to thaw for release)	Highly desired if > 2 units PRBCs given, or for prolonged PT, PTT 1 unit = 180 ml volume
Platelets (PLTS) Local variation in time to release (may need to come from regional blood bank)	Priority for women with Platelets < 50,000 Single-donor Apheresis unit (= 6 units of platelet concentrates) provides 40-50 k transient increase in platelets
Cryoprecipitate (CRYO) (approx. 35-45 min. to thaw for release)	Priority for women with Fibrinogen levels < 80 10 unit pack (or 1 adult dose) raises Fibrinogen 80-100 mg/dl Best for DIC with low fibrinogen and don't need volume replacement Caution: 10 units come from 10 different donors, so infection risk is proportionate.