

RX

Drug Name: Oxytocin
Trade Name: Pitocin, Syntocinon
Class:

Hormone
Uterine Stimulant

Mechanism of Action:

Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland. Causes rhythmic contraction of uterine smooth muscle, decreasing postpartum hemorrhage. Additionally it stimulates the mammary glands to increase lactation but does not increase milk production

Indications:

Prehospital--excessive postpartum hemorrhage

Contraindications:

Before administration it is essential to verify that the baby and placenta have been delivered and there is not an additional fetus in the uterus.

Precautions:

- Over stimulation of the uterus and possible rupture, monitor vital signs and uterine tone.
- HTN
- Cardiac Arrhythmias

Dosage:

Adults: (Medical Control Order)

- IV—10 U in 250 ml of NS administered at a rate to control uterine contractions.
- Infused 10u/250 ml over 5 to 10 minutes; repeat if needed and continue fundal massage.
- IM--3-10 units

Onset:

- IV—Immediate
- IM—3-5 minutes

Duration:

- IV—1 hour after infusion is stopped
- IM—2-3 hours

Side Effects:

- Hypertension or Hypotension
- Dysrhythmias
- Angina
- Anaphylaxis
- Fluid retention
- Pelvic hematoma
- Uterine spasm/rupture
- N/V

Interactions:

Other vasopressors may potentiate hypertension.

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PEARLS:

- **In SWO's this is a medical control call in medication**
- Because of the severe pain that can be induced with oxytocin, consider analgesia
- As with all medications, use the minimum dose required to achieve desired effects
- Do not give unless you are sure all fetuses have been delivered (i.e. fetus count has been confirmed by ultrasound prior to delivery)