

UNIT 2: OBSTETRICS
SECTION B: ABNORMAL OBSTETRICS

Educational Topic 27: Postpartum Hemorrhage

Rationale: Postpartum hemorrhage is a major, often preventable, cause of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

A student should be able to:

- List the risk factors for postpartum hemorrhage
- Construct a differential diagnosis for immediate and delayed postpartum hemorrhage
- Develop an evaluation and management plan for the patient with postpartum hemorrhage including consideration of various resource settings

TEACHING CASE

CASE: Tracy is a 33 year-old G1 woman who underwent induction of labor for a post-dates pregnancy at 41 weeks and 3 days gestation. Prostaglandins were used to accomplish cervical ripening and an oxytocin infusion was used to induce labor. The patient had a lengthy first and second stage. Ultimately, the fetus was delivered with vacuum assistance. The baby weighed 9 pounds 3 oz at birth. The third stage of labor was uncomplicated. Thirty minutes later you are called to the recovery room because Tracy has experienced brisk vaginal bleeding that did not respond to uterine massage by her nurse.

COMPETENCY-BASED DISCUSSION & KEY TEACHING POINTS:

Competencies addressed:

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Systems-Based Practice

1. What is the definition of postpartum hemorrhage?
2. What elements of this case present risk factors for a postpartum hemorrhage?
3. What are other risk factors for postpartum hemorrhage?
4. What are the causes of postpartum hemorrhage?
5. What is the management for postpartum hemorrhage?

REFERENCES

Beckman CRB, et al. Obstetrics and Gynecology. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2013.

Hacker NF, Moore JG, et al. Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynecology. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2010.

ACOG Practice Bulletin Number 76, Postpartum Hemorrhage, 2006; Reaffirmed 2013.

SOGC Practice Guideline 235, Active Management of the Third Stage of Labour: Prevention and Treatment of Postpartum Hemorrhage, October 2009.

World Health Organization Guidelines for the management of postpartum hemorrhage and retained placenta, 2009.