

OXYTOCIN (Pitocin®)

PHARMACOLOGY & ACTIONS:

- Hormone which increases electrical and contractile activity in uterine smooth muscle.
- Can initiate or enhance rhythmic contractions of the uterus.
- Exhibits rapid onset with a very short half-life, rapid inactivation and excretion.

INDICATIONS:

- Control of post-partum hemorrhage

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Rule out multiple fetuses before administration

ADMINISTRATION:

- 10 USP units (20 mg) per ml
Dose: 10 USP units in 1000 ml NS IV at a flow rate of 10-15 drops/min titrated to severity of hemorrhage & uterine response. A rapid infusion may be appropriate.

SIDE EFFECTS & SPECIAL NOTES:

- Administration should follow delivery of placenta
- In large doses, oxytocin exhibits a transient but marked vasodilating effect & reflex tachycardia.
- Cardiac dysrhythmias may be precipitated or aggravated by oxytocin.

CLASS: C

PROTOCOL(S) USED IN: Childbirth

