OXYTOCIN (PITOCIN)

PHARMACOLOGY & MECHANISM OF ACTIONS:

- Hormone
- Oxytocin is a naturally occurring hormone that is produced by the pituitary gland
- Oxytocin causes contraction of uterine smooth muscle, thereby controlling severe postpartum hemorrhage
- Oxytocin also exhibits vasopressor and antidiuretic effects
- Onset of action is immediately
- Half life is 3-9 minutes
- Duration approximately 1 hour

INDICATIONS:

- Post partum control of severe vaginal bleeding, after expulsion of the placenta

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Pregnancy (pre-delivery)
- Placenta not expelled

ADMINISTRATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADULT</th>
<th>PEDIATRIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mix 20 units in 1000 mL NS</td>
<td>NOT FOR USE ON PEDIATRICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administer IV, line running wide open</td>
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</tbody>
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PRECAUTIONS & SIDE EFFECTS:

- Hypotension
- Arrhythmias
- Tachycardia
- Seizures
- Coma
- Nausea
- Vomiting

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Excess oxytocin can cause over stimulation of the uterus and possible uterine rupture.
- Vital signs and uterine tone should be closely monitored.
- Breast feeding by the newborn will stimulate the natural release of oxytocin from the mother’s body and should be encouraged, if possible, after every delivery.
- Expect contractions and/or fundal massage to be very uncomfortable for the patient.
- Prior to administration, verify that the baby and placenta have been delivered. Confirm, by history, the patient is not expecting multiple births.
- If the placenta appears to have been incompletely expelled, contact OLMC prior to administration.