Secondary PPH management
Blood loss >500mls: >24 hrs and <6 weeks after birth

Call for help,
Assess need for resuscitation
Assess blood loss
Vital signs
Supply oxygen if required

Are you in ED? Notify the Obstetric team immediately

Is the woman stable?
Yes

- Thorough history:
  - Parity
  - Intrapartum details and complications
  - Obstetric risk factors
  - Any relevant medical / family history

- Clinical assessment:
  - Vital signs
  - Vaginal loss
  - Uterine size
  - Pain

No

Unstable woman
Initiate emergency response
Treat as for Primary PPH

Assessment

- Thorough history:
  - Parity
  - Intrapartum details and complications
  - Obstetric risk factors
  - Any relevant medical / family history

- Clinical assessment:
  - Vital signs
  - Vaginal loss
  - Uterine size
  - Pain

Investigations

- Insert 16g IV x 2
- FBC, CRP, G&H [or cross matching depending on history], coagulation studies, serum hCG
- Vaginal swabs
- If signs of infection: MSU
- If febrile T >38°C: C: blood cultures

Imaging

- Consider pelvic US & Doppler if retained tissue is suspected
- Other imaging as needed

Subsequent management

- Treatment (resuscitation, uterotonics, bed rest, antibiotics, surgical evacuation & specialised options)
- Admit all women with secondary PPH who have had a caesarean birth.
- After discussion with Senior Registrar/Consultant, some women may be discharged home on antibiotics.
- Medical/Obstetric team to debrief the woman once she is haemodynamically stable.

IV Antibiotic Regimen – if febrile/septic

48hrs then switch to oral, if no longer febrile/septic
- Ampicillin 2g STAT, then 1g 6/24
- Metronidazole 500mg 12/24
- +/- Gentamicin 5mg/kg daily

Penicillin allergy
- Clindamycin or Lincomycin 900mg 8/24
- +/- Gentamicin 5mg/kg daily

Oral Antibiotic Regimen – if not febrile

- Amox/clav 875/125 12/24, for 7 days
- Metronidazole 400mg 8/24, for 7 days

Penicillin allergy
- Ciprofloxacin 500mg 12/24, for 7 days
- Metronidazole 400mg 12/24, for 7 days

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 03 9096 1308, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email info@safercare.vic.gov.au

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