Oxytocin for the Third Stage of Labor

Delivery

Start Oxytocin
300ml/hr (18U/hr)

5 minutes

Uterine Atony?

No

Continue Oxytocin 300ml/hr (18U.hr) for the first hour

Then decrease Oxytocin to 60ml (3.6 U/hr) until 500 ml/ 30 U is infused.

Yes

Increase Oxytocin to 600ml/hr (36U/hr)

5 minutes

Uterine Atony?

No

Run @ 600ml/hr for a total of 30 minutes

When atony has resolved gradually step down the infusion

300 ml/hr (3.6 U/hr) for 30 minutes.

Yes

Increase Oxytocin to 900ml/hr (54U/hr) for up to 30 minutes

Consider other uterotonics or treatments for uterine atony as indicated by the patient’s clinical condition

When atony resolves gradually step down the infusion:

600 ml/hr (36 U/hr) for 30 minutes → 300 ml/hr (3.6 U/hr) for 30 minutes

Clinical Indication: All patients who have required the Pitocin rate to be increase to 900 must have a 2nd bag of Pitocin/follow algorithm

Last Updated: April 17, 2014