

CLASS: B

PROTOCOL USED IN: OB/GYN & Childbirth Emergencies

PHARMACOLOGY AND ACTIONS:

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

INDICATIONS:

Control of postpartum hemorrhage (>1000 mL blood loss)

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Rule out multiple fetuses before administration

SIDE EFFECTS AND NOTES:

- A. Administration should follow delivery of placenta.
- B. Oxytocin may exhibit a transient, but marked vasodilating effect and reflex tachycardia.
- C. Cardiac dysrhythmias may be precipitated or aggravated by oxytocin.
- D. Fundal massage and nursing can stimulate natural release of pitocin from mother's pituitary gland.

ADULT DOSING:

10 USP units IM x 1.

PEDIATRIC: not recommended in pediatric patients.