

Calculating Allowable Blood Loss

https://www.manuelsweb.com/blood_loss.htm

Loss above 500 ml is 'postpartum haemorrhage'.

The 'allowable blood loss' at time of delivery - compatible with borderline health - can be based on the woman's estimated blood volume. Taking her haematocrit into account and 65 ml / kg for body weight, the calculation comes to 12% - 14% of her (estimated) blood volume. ***Syntocinon[®]** infusion should be reduced or held steady once labour is established, ending it before delivery. Blood loss following labour should be 50 ml - 499 ml max.

***or Oxytocin[®]**

www.oxytocinmeasures.com



Calculating Allowable Blood Loss - continued

The topic of 'allowable blood loss' is not to detract from antenatal efforts to raise haemoglobin levels by week 36 when the unborn baby starts storing iron, and to be in time for the onset of labour, also.

On the next page is a comparison of total blood volume calculated on height and weight, to show how the shorter woman's whole blood volume is the same as some postpartum haemorrhages.

The taller woman's allowable blood loss is in the lower range of postpartum haemorrhage, but as a proportion of her total blood volume, it is the same.

Calculating Allowable Blood Loss - continued

Examples calculated on mid-weight (kg) for height -

Height -----	4' 9"	5' 5"
Weight -----	35 - 42 kg	51 - 62 kg
Estimated blood volume -	2503 ml	3673 ml
Allowable blood loss -----	357 ml	525 ml *

*** This is an excessive amount after delivery, but it ably shows variations in *tolerable* blood loss (after trauma), between women of different statures.**

A midwife stays at least one hour after delivery to continue necessary care and ensure that blood loss is minimised.