

Glossary

Syntocinon[®] - synthetic oxytocin (+ excipients) for iv infusion supplied in ampoules: 5 IU and 10 IU.

Milliunit - one thousandth of one International Unit (IU) abbreviated - 1 mU and (half) 0.5 mU.

Induction of labour - use (combination of) natural and/or medical intervention to prompt labour.

Augmentation of labour - intravenous synthetic oxytocin to strengthen existing labour pains.

Drip infusion - iv infusion hand-controlled adjustable clamp on tubing, to regulate rate of drops.

Volumetric pump - 0.1 ml minimum flow: mechanical fingers milk the tubing - like peristalsis.

Syringe driver - 0.01 ml minimum volume flow: syringe installed into motorised pump device.

Dilution of Syntocinon[®] - The authors use 'dilution' to define the total dose of synthetic oxytocin to be added to the total volume of iv fluid to contain Syntocinon[®] so that the minimum volume of the device - whether of drip or infusion pump - contains only 0.5 mU or 1 mU synthetic oxytocin.

Dosage of Syntocinon[®] - combines dose per minute with licensed limitations on rates of infusion

Recommended dosage range - In this context, the limitations for safe use, for which manufacture was granted licence for live pregnancy, or following pregnancy-associated complications.

(NOTE: synthetic oxytocin has other uses for which other doses and administrations are licensed.)

Consent - formal agreement given by patient to receive synthetic oxytocin in a licensed format.

Consent to unlicensed dosage - formal agreement by patient to receive unlicensed dilutions or rates of infusion on the recommendation of her Obstetrician for identifiable clinical reasons.

Withdrawal of consent - patient's legal right to change mind regardless of contrary clinical advice.

NOTE: it is illegal to continue any treatment for which the patient has withdrawn consent.