

ABSTRACT

The Objective of the study is to compare the effects of routine prophylactic administration of IV Oxytocin 10 units with that of IV Ergometrine 0.5 mg as a part of active management of third stage of labour in respect of risk reduction for atonic primary postpartum haemorrhage.

A randomised control trial was conducted to compare the post partum blood loss. The study included 47 women who received Oxytocin and 51 women who received Ergometrine. This study was carried out from 1st November 2005 to 23^h April 2006 at Colombo South Teaching Hospital.

In the univariate analysis none of the factors considered for post partum blood loss were found to be statistically significant with the type of drug used ; post partum blood loss ($p = 0.89$) , Difference of haemoglobin ($p = 0.96$). Outcome of pregnancy and type of drug used revealed that none of the factors were statistically significant ; Nature of the labour ($p = 0.48$) , duration of third stage of labour ($p = 0.64$) , Need for additional therapeutic use of drug ($p = 0.46$) , Weight of the placenta ($p = 0.34$), manual removal of placenta ($p = 0.54$). The side effects in the two groups were found to be statistically significant ; Vomiting ($p = 0.001$; OR – 7, 95 % CI = 2.8 -17.0) , Headache ($p = 0.01$; OR – 3.4 , 95 % CI = 1.33 – 8,76).

Therefore the routine use of Oxytocin or Ergometrine for the prevention of atonic primary post partum haemorrhage has to be weighed against its clinically important disadvantages such as vomiting and headache for the quality of patient care.