

Abstract

Intra Umbilical Vein Injection of Oxytocin for Retained Placenta: Comparison of Two Doses Administered via Naso Gastric Tube

Rationale: Intra umbilical vein (IUV) injection of oxytocin has been recommended for the management of retained placentae

Objective: To compare the effectiveness of two different doses of IUV oxytocin administered via naso gastric (NG) tube in the management of retained placentae.

Design & Setting: A prospective interventional study carried out in two Teaching Hospitals in Colombo and Galle.

Method: Via a NG tube inserted in to the cord up to 5cm from the vaginal introitus, an IUV injection of oxytocin in 20ml normal saline was randomly given in a dose of 40 IU (N= 25) or 20 IU (N=26) , to 51 women showing no evidence of placental separation 20 minutes after a vaginal delivery

Outcome Measures: Proportions resulting in spontaneous expulsion of placentae after IUV injection, time taken for such expulsion, any significant hemorrhage and need for MRP.

Results: There were no significant differences in age, parity period of gestation or birth weight of babies between the two groups. In seven (28%) of the subjects in the 40 units group and in five (19%) of the subjects in the 20 units group the intervention was successful. The mean times of expulsion of placentae were 13.4 minutes (SD 1.3) in the 40 units group and 10.4 minutes (SD1.6) in the 20 units group. None had significant hemorrhage. All the subjects in whom the placentae did not separate within 20 minutes of the invention underwent MRP.

Conclusion: IUV injection of oxytocin via a NG tube inserted in to the cord up to 5cm from the vaginal introitus had a success rate of placental separation of less than 30 % . Oxytocin 40 IU may be better than a dose of 20 IU.