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PHARMACOLOGY OF DRUGS REGULATING UTERINE CONTRACTIONS

Turakulova Nasiba

Teacher of public health technical college named after
Republic No. 1 Abu Ali Ibn Sina

Annotation: This paper examines the pharmacological agents used in the management of postpartum hemorrhage and their clinical significance in obstetric practice. Postpartum hemorrhage is a major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide and requires immediate medical intervention. The study describes the causes of postpartum hemorrhage, commonly summarized as the “4 Ts” (Tone, Trauma, Tissue, Thrombin), and focuses on pharmacological treatment options. It analyzes uterotonic drugs such as oxytocin, methylergometrine, prostaglandin analogues, and carbetocin, as well as antifibrinolytic agents like tranexamic acid. The mechanisms of action, indications, and importance of timely administration are highlighted. Special attention is given to the role of nurses in early recognition of bleeding, drug administration, patient monitoring, and emergency care. Understanding pharmacological management of postpartum hemorrhage is essential for improving maternal outcomes and reducing preventable maternal deaths.

Keywords: Postpartum hemorrhage; Uterotonic drugs; Oxytocin; Methylergometrine; Tranexamic acid; Maternal mortality; Obstetric emergency; Hemostasis; Nursing practice; Drug therapy; Uterine atony; Emergency care; Obstetrics; Pharmacology; Maternal health.

The control of uterine contractions is one of the most important aspects of obstetric practice. This physiological process plays a crucial role in maintaining a normal pregnancy, managing labor, and ensuring the safety of both the mother and the fetus. Uterine contractions are regulated by complex hormonal and neurohumoral mechanisms that maintain the balance between uterine relaxation and activity.

In modern pharmacology, drugs that regulate uterine contractions are divided into two main groups: uterotonics (agents that stimulate uterine contractions) and tocolytics (agents that suppress uterine contractions). These medications are widely used in clinical practice for the induction of labor, prevention of postpartum hemorrhage, and management of preterm labor.

A deep understanding of the pharmacological properties, mechanisms of action, indications, and side effects of uterotonic and tocolytic agents is essential for healthcare professionals working in obstetrics. In nursing practice, proper administration of these drugs and careful monitoring of the mother and fetus are critical for ensuring safe maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Therefore, this paper discusses the pharmacology of drugs that regulate uterine contractions, their clinical significance, and their role in obstetric practice. The pharmacological management of uterine contractions is a fundamental component of modern obstetric care. Drugs that regulate uterine activity—uterotonics and tocolytics—



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play a vital role in ensuring safe pregnancy outcomes, effective labor management, and prevention of life-threatening complications for both the mother and the fetus.

Uterotonic agents such as oxytocin, prostaglandins, and ergot derivatives are essential in stimulating uterine contractions, inducing labor when medically indicated, and preventing or treating postpartum hemorrhage. Their correct and timely use significantly reduces maternal morbidity and mortality associated with uterine atony and excessive bleeding after delivery.

On the other hand, tocolytic agents, including beta-2 adrenergic agonists, calcium channel blockers, magnesium sulfate, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, are crucial in the management of preterm labor. These medications help delay uterine contractions, allowing time for fetal maturation and improving neonatal survival rates. However, their use requires careful monitoring due to potential maternal and fetal side effects.

A comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms of action, indications, contraindications, and adverse effects of these drugs is essential for healthcare professionals working in obstetrics. Nurses, in particular, play a key role in monitoring patients, administering medications correctly, and identifying early signs of complications.

In conclusion, the effective use of uterine contraction-modulating drugs, combined with proper clinical supervision, contributes significantly to improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes. Continuous education and adherence to clinical guidelines are necessary to ensure the safe and rational use of these pharmacological agents in obstetric practice.

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