



ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

OXYTOCIN (SYNTHETIC) AND ERGOMETRINE MALEATE (SYNTOMETRINE®)

Scope (Staff): All WNHS Staff

Scope (Area): Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

Quick Links

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Restrictions

[Formulary: Unrestricted](#)

Medication Class

Synthetic pituitary hormone

Presentation

Ampoule: Oxytocin 5units with Ergometrine 500microg per 1mL

Storage

Store at 2 to 8°C. Do not freeze. Protect from light.

Dose

Prophylaxis and Treatment of Postpartum Haemorrhage:

Refer to: KEMH O&G Restricted Area Clinical Practice Guideline: [Postpartum Complications](#) (Intranet access only)

Refer to: KEMH Community Midwifery Program Clinical Practice Guideline: [Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage \(PPH\) at Home \(CMP\)](#) (Intranet access only)

Pharmacological management of uterine tone at caesarean birth:

Refer to: KEMH O&G Clinical Practice Guideline: [Caesarean birth](#)

Active management of the third stage of labour:

Refer to: KEMH O&G Clinical Practice Guideline: [Labour: Third stage](#)

Refer to: KEMH O&G Restricted Area Clinical Practice Guideline: [Pregnancy Care: Mid-trimester pregnancy loss](#) (intranet access only)

Retained Placenta:

Refer to: KEMH O&G Clinical Practice Guideline: [Labour: Third stage: Retained Placenta](#)

Administration

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#) accessible through the [KEMH library homepage](#).

Monitoring

Monitor blood pressure and heart rate

Relative contra-indication in some hypertensive disorders and specific cardiac conditions. The decision to use either or both agents should be individualised depending on the underlying severity/pathophysiology of the HTN and the underlying cardiac conditions. Consultant Obstetrician, Physician and Anaesthesia input may be required. A plan should be made for all women with HTN or cardiac disease in the antenatal period and reviewed intrapartum.

Oxytocin should be considered as potentially arrhythmogenic, particularly in patients with other risk factors for torsades de pointes such as drugs which prolong QT interval or in patients with a history of long QT syndrome.

Pregnancy

1st Trimester: Consider alternative

2nd Trimester: Consider alternative

3rd Trimester: Monitoring required

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Breastfeeding

Safe to use

For more information, please contact [KEMH Obstetric Medicines Information Service](#).

Comments

Ergometrine is metabolised by CYP3A4; its adverse effects such as vasoconstriction may be increased if it is given with inhibitors of CYP3A4; avoid combinations including HIV Protease inhibitors. See AMH listing for further details [Drugs and CYP enzymes](#)

Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

WNHS O&G Clinical Practice Guidelines (in addition to those listed above):

- [Blood Products and Transfusion: Refusal](#)
- [Birth After Previous Caesarean Section](#)
- [Multiple Pregnancy](#)
- [Abnormalities of lie / presentation](#)
- [Body Mass Index \(BMI\) >40: Management of a Woman with](#)
- [WNHS Adult Medication monograph: Oxytocin](#)

References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Oxytocin. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

Australian Medicines Handbook. Ergometrine. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

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Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Oxytocin-Ergometrine. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. Available from: <http://aidh.hcn.com.au>

Oxytocin (synthetic) and ergometrine maleate (syntometrine®)

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|---|---|----------------|---|--------------|------------|
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