Postpartum haemorrhage, improving care and better results at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden

Introduction

Globally, postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal mortality and morbidity. Knowledge, good practical routines, teamwork and communication can reduce both mortality and morbidity. The aim of this quality improvement project was to reduce bleeding frequency, bleeding volume, transfusions and secondarily reduce morbidity and mortality.

Methods

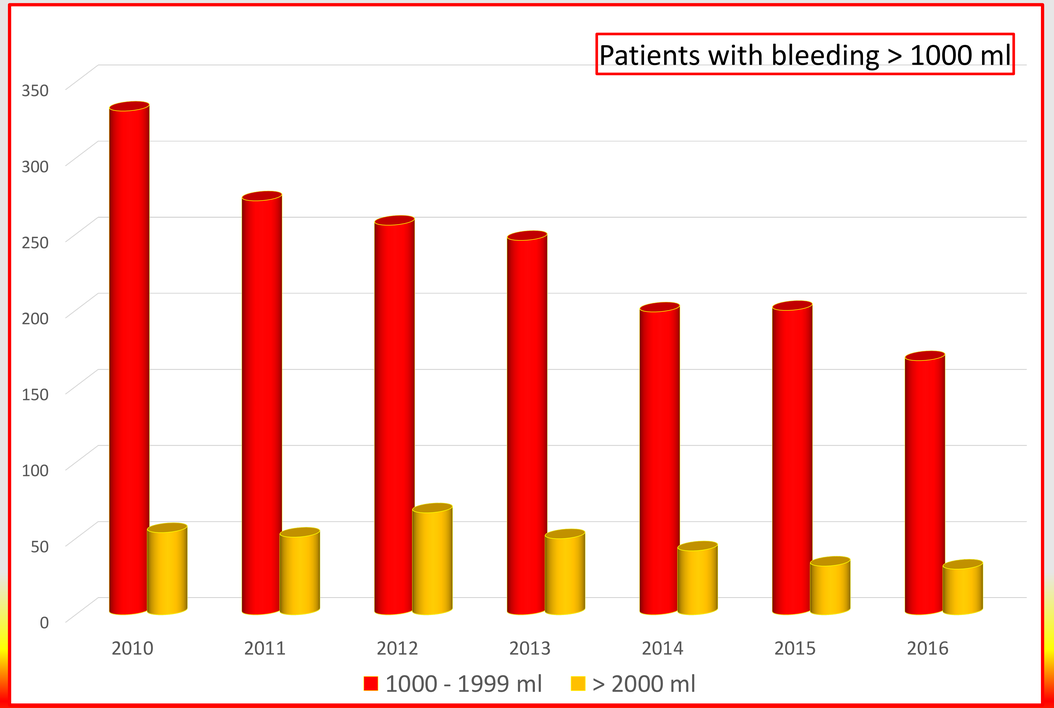
At the beginning of the last decade, the hospital created a multidisciplinary group to reduce the bleeding during and after delivery. During this period the Department of Anaesthesia performed studies about haemostasis during PPH and gave lectures in PPH, external aorta compression, haemostasis, teamwork and communication.

The care for PPH included [1]:

- Initial care, including external aorta compression.
- Pharmacological treatment of uterine atony.
- Obstetric care
- Haemostasis care
- Anaesthesia care

Results

During this period a reduction in bleeding volume and transfusion rate was seen. The number of obstetric patients bleeding > 1000 ml were reduced with 49 % (Figure). The number of red blood cells transfusion were reduced with 39.5 %.



Discussion

At Sahlgrenska University Hospital, better management of PPH [1] dramatically reduced the bleeding frequency, bleeding volume and transfusion rate. There was a lot of effort and the results were supporting and gave good motivation. External aorta compression was one important factor to stabilise patients and reduce the bleeding.[2] In the end of the period, the hospital got a bigger turnover of staff with reduced knowledge and competence. The pandemic reduced the possibilities for good care even further. The bleeding frequency and bleeding volume have increased. It's time for a new project group and increasing the knowledge about management of PPH.

References

1. Karlsson O. Protocol for postpartum haemorrhage including massive transfusion. Best practice & research Clinical anaesthesiology. 2022 Dec;36(3-4):427-432.
2. Soltan MH, Sadek RR. Experience managing postpartum hemorrhage at Minia University Maternity Hospital, Egypt: no mortality using external aortic compression. J Obstet Gynaecol Res. 2011 Nov;37(11):1557-63.