SUCCESSFUL EMBOLIZATION OF SPONTANEOUS UTERINE ARTERY RUPTURE FOLLOWING VAGINAL DELIVERY

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BACKGROUND

- Spontaneous uterine artery rupture is a rare but life-threatening cause of postpartum hemorrhage
- Variable clinical presentation and high risk of delayed diagnosis
- Often presents with hypovolemic shock and unclear bleeding source
- Traditionally managed with laparotomy

Differential includes:

- Uterine atony
- Retained products of conception
- Iatrogenic injury
- Uterine rupture
- Intra-abdominal bleeding
- AFE

Mercier AM et al. Spontaneous Uterine Vessel Rupture During Pregnancy or in the Puerperium: A Review of the Literature. *Obstet Gynecol Surv*. 2022;77(4):227-233.
Díaz-Murillo R et al. Spontaneous Hemoperitoneum due to Rupture of Uterine Varicose Veins during Labor Successfully Treated by Percutaneous Embolization. *Case Rep Obstet Gynecol*. 2014;2014:580384.

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CASE

A 26-year-old G3P2012 at 39w1d

L&D:

- eIOL with uncomplicated spontaneous vaginal delivery
- EBL 250 mL

Postpartum:

- 1 hour PP, profound HoTN (50s/30)
- Hgb 11.9 → 8.9
- Exam: firm uterus, minimal bleeding
- US: thin stripe, small RUQ free fluid

Resuscitation:

- Persistent shock requiring vasopressors
- CTA: active uterine extravasation
- MTP activated
- Received 9U PRBCs, 9U FFP, 10U cryo, 3 plt

Intervention & Post-Op:

- IR performed bilateral UAE
- Extubated PPD2
- New O2 requirement PPD4, BNP 1241
- TTE: global LV dysfunction with EF 35-40%

- Initiation of GDMT
- Discharged PPD 7
- TTE showed normalization of biventricular systolic function (EF 55%)

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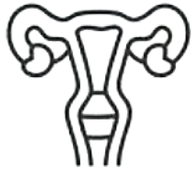
LEARNING POINTS

Maintain high suspicion for intra-abdominal bleeding in postpartum shock with minimal vaginal bleeding

CTA + angiography enable rapid diagnosis when source unclear



UAE is an effective uterus-sparing alternative to laparotomy

Consider complications of massive transfusion and shock

Early detection and multidisciplinary treatment may decrease risk of morbidity and mortality

Wang HF et al. Shock caused by spontaneous rupture uterine vessels during puerperal period: a case report and literature review. *Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci*. 2021;25(13):4451-4455.