Delayed Postpartum Hemorrhage Requiring Multisite Intervention: The Essential Role of Obstetric Anesthesiology

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER
EXCEPTIONAL CARE. WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

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Background

- **Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH)** remains the leading **preventable** cause of maternal death **worldwide,** and still accounts for **11%** of maternal deaths in the **United States**.

- A national study found among patients with severe PPH, **11.6%** required **transfusion**, **2.0%** received **hysterectomy**, while **1.3%** underwent **uterine artery embolization (UAE)**. **0.76%** required **both** UAE and hysterectomy.

The Case Report

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37y/o G2P1001 at 37 weeks

- underwent IOL for **preeclampsia** and **insulin-dependent GDM**
- **Epidural** placed **prior to AROM**

Vaginal delivery

- **QBL 1571mL**,HDS
- Anesthesia paged →JADA placed→QBL 2100mL
- HDS unstable, received transfusion
- Persistent hypotension→ OR

L & D OR : Dilation and Curettage

- MTP activated
- JADA removed
- 2L of clot evacuated
- Cervical laceration identified & clamped: **hemostasis, QBL 6022mL**→Plan for IR

IR Embolization

- Left uterine artery embolized→ abrupt hypotension→ resuscitation with blood products
- Re-exam: collateral branch required embolization

SICU Admission

- Increasing pelvic & abdominal pressure
- Gynecology consulted and identified 4.5cm of organized clot in uterine cavity→OR

Main OR : D&C ➡ Open Hysterectomy

- **GA** for D&C
- Re-accummulation of blood in uterus (Hgb 5→MTP) →laparotomy →uterine & cervical injuries with retroperitoneal hematoma→**Hysterectomy** with bilateral salpingectomy

Recovery

- *Transfered to SICU &* extubated 4 hrs post-op
- Discharged POD 4

Conclusion

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Early Anesthesia Involvement is Critical

- Bedside involvement enables **rapid hemodynamic stabilization**
- Facilitates timely **airway management, access, and escalation of care**

Laboratory Trends May Lag Clinical Deterioration

- Initial labs may not fully reflect clinical picture
- Clinical signs (bleeding, hemodynamics) should **drive intervention**

Importance of Multidisciplinary Coordination

- Clear communication enables **rapid transitions between care setting**.

References