



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 Clinical Practice Guideline: [Syntometrine: Labour & birth suite – Quick Reference Guide](#)

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

Contraindicated in women with cardiac disease

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](#).

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/>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Oxytocin. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2021 [cited 2021 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

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Oxytocin (synthetic) and ergometrine maleate (syntometrine®)

Keywords	Syntometrine, oxytocic, ergometrine, third stage, postpartum haemorrhage prevention, PPH, active management of third stage, labour suite, LBS, QRG, uterotonic				
Document Owner:	Chief Pharmacist				
Author/ Reviewer	KEMH Pharmacy Department				
Version Info:	V4.0				
Date First Issued:	May 2015	Last Reviewed:	Aug 2021	Review Date:	Nov 2024
Endorsed by:	Medicines and Therapeutics Committee			Date:	02/11/2021
NSQHS Standards Applicable:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 1: Clinical Governance <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 2: Partnering with Consumers <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 3: Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Std 4: Medication Safety		<input type="checkbox"/>  Std 5: Comprehensive Care <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 6: Communicating for Safety <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 7: Blood Management <input type="checkbox"/>  Std 8: Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration		
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