

Unit : 14 A B* Legal & Ethical aspects related to midwifery.

- Laws & ethics are often complementary to each other
- Midwives must follow standards & regulations that range from the National level to individual area of practise such as hospital, labour & delivery units.

→ Legal issues in obstetric & gynaecology :

- i.) Problems of medications :
- ii.) Failure in monitoring the clients
- iii.) Failure to report changes in patient
- iv.) Failure in assessing the client
- v.) Abortions
- vi.) Nursing care of Newborns.

→ Ethics in midwifery and gynaecology :

- According to Thompson and Thompson, to be professional is to be ethical and to be ethical is to be professional
 - To be ethical requires understanding of ethics, values, moral reasoning & ethical decision making
 - Goal of ethical midwifery is to do the right thing for the right reason
 - Study of ethics will provide framework for exploration & resolution of dilemmas.
- m) Ethical principle of beneficence :
- It requires one to act in a way that is expected to produce the balance

of benefits over harm in lives of others.

iii) Non-maleficence:

- It means the health professional should prevent causing harm & is best understood as expressing the limits of beneficence.

iv) Respect for autonomy:

- This principle requires to acknowledge & carry out the value based preference to adult, competent patient.

v) Beneficence & respect for autonomy in gynaecological practice:

- Beneficence based and autonomy based clinical judgements in gynaecology practice.

vi) Caring:

- health professional usually care for their clients and as such would always have best interest in mind.

vii) Empowerment and advocacy:

- role of midwife is to support & help women to exercise their autonomy.

* Maternal Morbidity, Mortality and Fertility Rates:

i) Maternal mortality:

Defined as death of a woman who is pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy irrespective of duration & the site of pregnancy from cause related to pregnancy or its management.

ii) MMR:

No. of maternal death divided by no. of women of reproductive age & expressed per 100,000 women of reproductive age.

(2)

$$\text{MMR} = \frac{\text{No. of } \cancel{\text{total}} \text{ death of women in reproductive age}}{\text{Total no. of women in reproductive age}} \times 100000$$

iii) Maternal Morbidity:

- Morbidity in obstetrics occurs from any causes related to pregnancy or its management.

iv) ^{Total} Maternal fertility Rate (TFR):

- The average no. of children that would be born per woman if all women lived to the end of their childbearing years & bore children according to a given fertility rate at each age.

* Perinatal Mortality & Morbidity Rates:

i) Perinatal Mortality:

- Defined as death among the fetuses weighing over 500gm or more at birth who die before & during delivery or within first 7 days of delivery.
- It is expressed in terms of such deaths per 1000 total births.

ii) Perinatal Morbidity:

- Implies to the illness of neonate from birth to first 4 weeks.

* IRR:

- IRR = No. of death of infants under 1 year old in a given year per 1000 live birth in same year.

Unit 13: Drugs used In Obstetrics

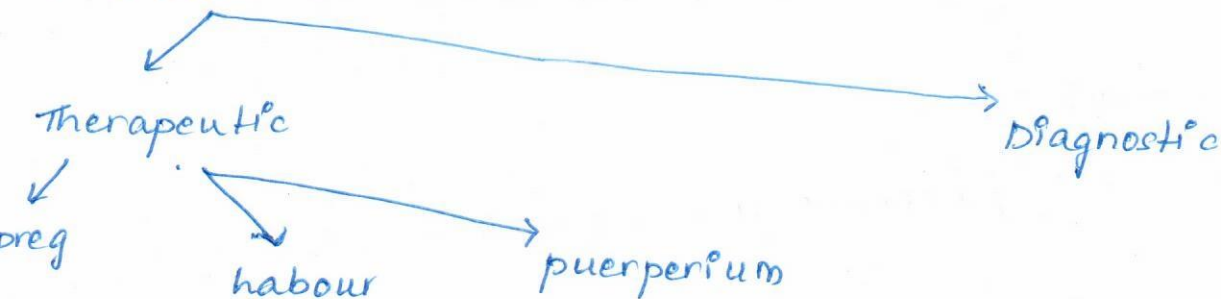
Oxytocics in Obstetrics

- oxytocics are the drug of varying chemical nature that have the power to excite contraction of uterine muscles.
- They are :-
 - Oxytocin
 - Ergot derivatives
 - Prostaglandins.

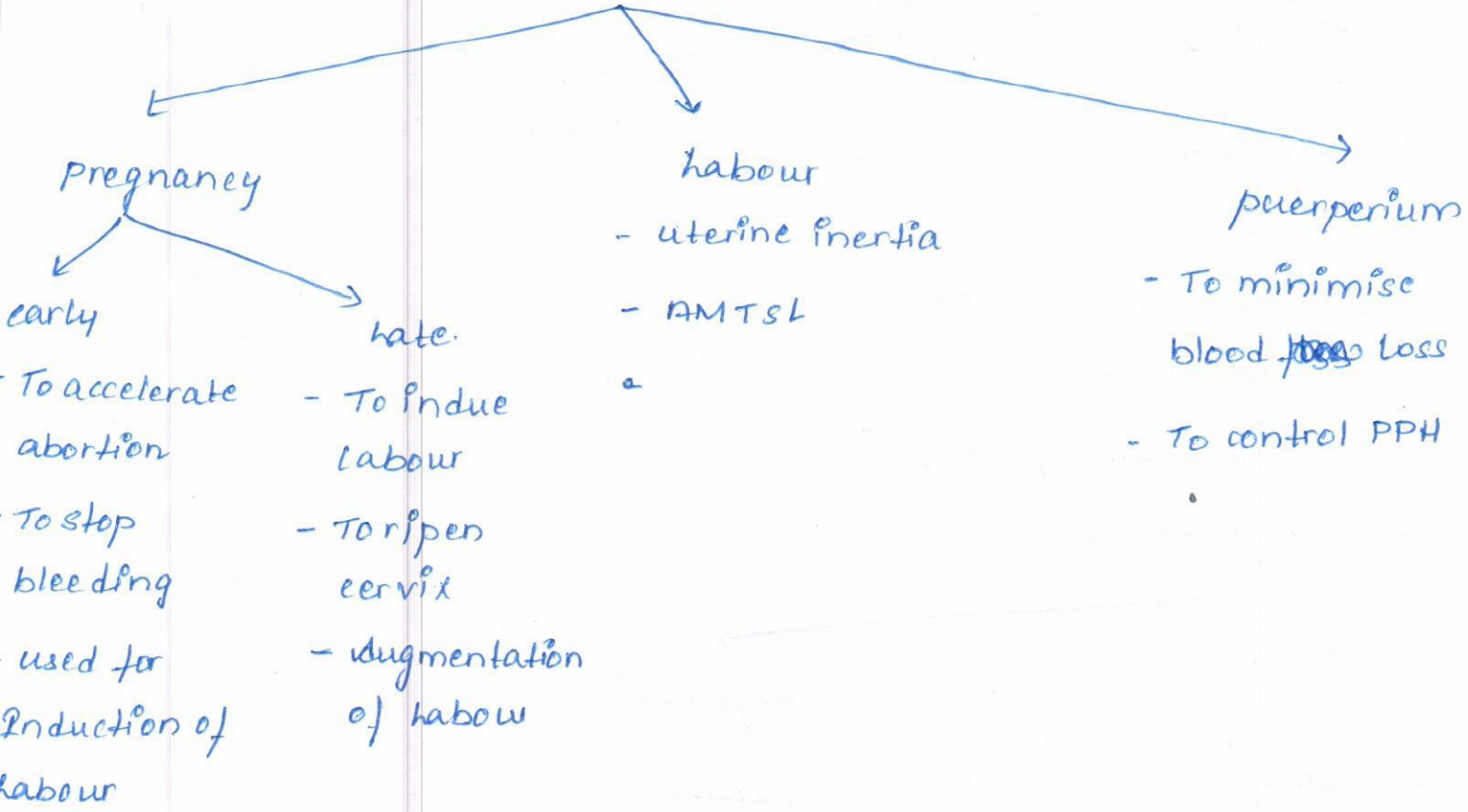
1) Oxytocin :

- Pharmacology :- oxytocin is a non-peptide.
 - synthesised in hypothalamus
 - Then transported from hypothalamus to pituitary gland.
 - It has half life of 3-4 mins
 - duration of action approx 20mins.

→ Indication :



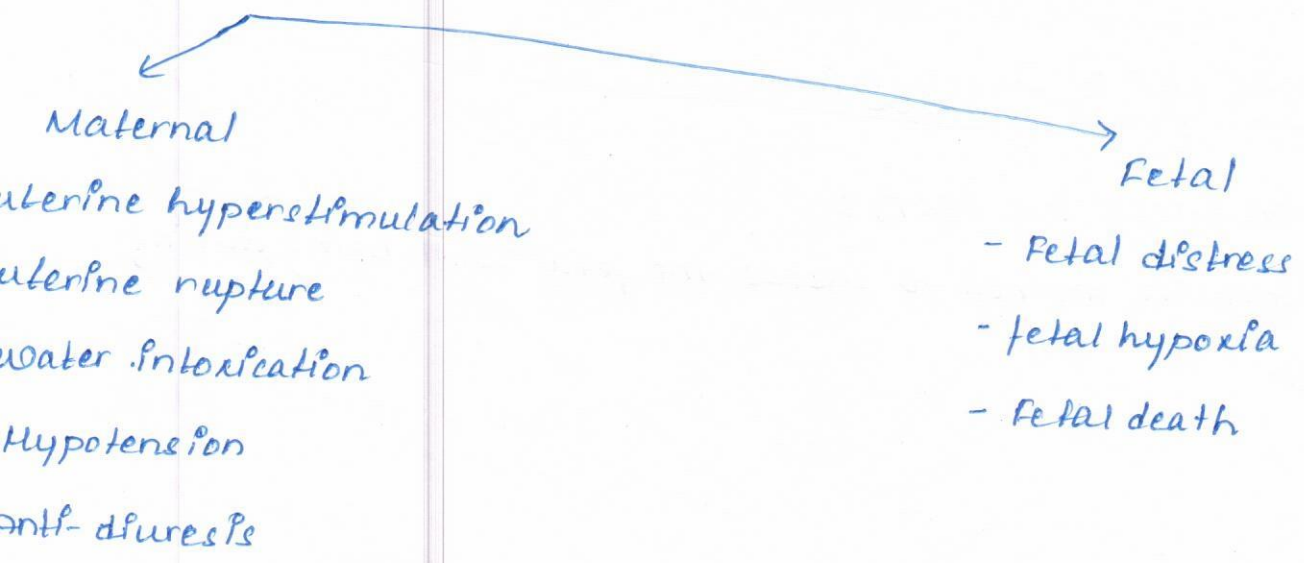
Therapeutic



Diagnostic

- Contraction stress Test (CST)
- Oxytocin sensitivity Test (OST)

→ Dangers of oxytocin?



→ Methods of Administration:

controlled intravenous infusion

Intramuscular

- Oxytocin infusion should be ideally by infusion pump
- It is started 1-2 mIU/min & increased gradually

Induction of labour

- oxytocin started at low rate at interval of 20-30 min
- start: 1-2 mIU/min then 1-2 mIU in 20 mins intervals up to 8 mIU/min

Augmentatⁿ of labour

- oxytocin infusion is used during labour
- procedure consists of low ROM

→ Diagnostic use of Oxytocin:

(i) Contraction Stress Test (CST):

- It is an invasive method to assess the fetal well being during pregnancy.