Oxytocin

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: Hormone

How it works: Activates oxytocin receptors on the myometrium

Raises intracellular calcium in uterine myofibrils, strengthening and increasing the frequency of uterine contractions

USE IT FOR

- Postpartum women (sole indication on page)

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Contraindication: any condition other than postpartum (per page)
- Cesarean section (listed under contraindications on page)
- Placenta must be delivered, and no other fetuses present, prior to administration
- Overdose can cause uterine rupture
- Monitor for hypotension
- Monitor BP, EtCO2, ECG

DOSE

Adult: **20 units — 2 mL in 1000 mL NS, wide open (per page)**

Peds: **[dose not stated in original text]**

Repeat: **[dose not stated in original text]**

WATCH FOR

- Anaphylaxis
- Cardiac arrhythmias

PEARLS

- Onset IV 1 min; half-life 1 hour; peak listed as unknown (per page)

Take Home Message:

Oxytocin strengthens postpartum contractions — 20 units wide open, only after the placenta is delivered and no fetus remains.