Using Oxytocin in Labor

Content Outline

1. Physiology of Oxytocin
   A. Endogenous oxytocin
   B. Exogenous oxytocin
   C. Effects
      1. Uterine blood flow
      2. Fetal Oxygenation
      3. Oxytocin receptor desensitization
   D. Pharmacokinetics

2. Evidence-Based Use of Oxytocin in Clinical Practice
   A. Indications
   B. Dosing protocols
   C. Uterine assessment
   D. Treatment of tachysystole
   E. Adverse effects
   F. Effects on fetal oxygenation

3. Risk Management Strategies for Safe Oxytocin Use
   A. Litigation risks
   B. Promotion of safe practices

Reading Material Resources

Module WB1938: Using Oxytocin in Labor is based on the resources listed below. A copy of each resource is included with the module.

Examination of the Pharmacology of Oxytocin and Clinical Guidelines for Use in Labor, Page et al., Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health, Volume 62, No. 4, 425-433