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A Study of Knowledge and Practices of Active Management of Third Stage of Labour Among Healthcare Providers

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ABSTRACT

Active Management of the Third Stage of Labour (AMTSL) is an important intervention in maternal healthcare that helps prevent postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), one of the leading causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. The third stage of labour begins after the birth of the baby and ends with the delivery of the placenta. Healthcare providers, including doctors, nurses, and midwives, play a significant role in ensuring the safe management of this stage. Adequate knowledge and appropriate practices regarding AMTSL are essential for reducing maternal complications and promoting safe childbirth. The major components of AMTSL include the administration of a uterotonic drug, preferably oxytocin, after the birth of the baby, controlled cord traction by a skilled birth attendant when appropriate, and assessment of uterine tone after placental delivery. Healthcare providers must also be familiar with identifying excessive bleeding, monitoring maternal vital signs, and providing timely emergency care. Regular training, clinical demonstrations, and continuing professional education can improve their knowledge and practical skills. However, differences in healthcare facilities, availability of resources, workload, and training opportunities may influence the implementation of AMTSL practices. Therefore, assessing healthcare providers' knowledge and practices is essential for identifying gaps, improving the quality of maternal healthcare services, and reducing the risk of postpartum haemorrhage.