

Oxytocin

Induction of labour

See flowchart: *Method of induction*

Oxytocin

Indications

- IOL with ruptured membranes

Contraindications

- Do not commence oxytocin within:
 - 6 hours of dinoprostone gel
 - 30 minutes of removal of dinoprostone pessary

Cautions

- Discuss with obstetrician if:
 - Previous uterine surgery (e.g. CS, myomectomy)
 - Multiple pregnancy
 - More than 4 previous births
 - Cardiovascular disease

Pre oxytocin commencement:

- Complete pre IOL assessment
- If membranes intact, perform ARM

Oxytocin administration:

- Via sideline/secondary IV access
- Volumetric pump required
- Record dose in milliunit/minute

Observation and care

- Provide one-to-one midwifery care
- Commence intrapartum record
- Continuous CTG
- Maternal and fetal observations as per first stage of active labour
- Maintain fluid balance chart

Dose management

- Use minimum dose required to establish and maintain active labour
- Maternal and CTG review prior to any increase
- Aim for contractions:
 - 3–4 in a 10 minute period
 - Duration of 40–60 seconds
 - Resting period not less than 60 seconds
- Titrate against uterine contractions
- Increase at 30 minute or longer intervals
- Obstetric review required:
 - Prior to exceeding 20 milliunit/minute
 - At 32 milliunit/minute if labour has not commenced
 - If infusion ceased
 - Prior to recommencing

If recommencing infusion

- Consult with an obstetrician
- If ceased for less than 30 minutes, recommence at half the previous rate
- If ceased for greater than 30 minutes, consider recommencing at less than half the previous rate

Infusion: oxytocin (30 International units in 500 mL) 1 milliunit/minute = 1 mL/hour	
Time after starting (minutes)	Dose (milliunit/minute)
0	1
30	2
60	4
90	8
120	12
150	16
180	20
Prior to exceeding 20 milliunit/minute obstetrician review required	
210	24
240	28
270	32

*Exercise caution in women with previous uterine surgery and consider a maximum dose of 20 milliunit/min

ARM: artificial rupture of membranes; **CS:** caesarean section; **CTG:** cardiotocograph; **FHR:** fetal heart rate; **IOL:** induction of labour; **IV:** intravenous; **VBAC:** vaginal birth after caesarean section; **<:** less than

Queensland Clinical Guideline. *Induction of labour*. Flowchart: F22.22-5-V7-R27