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How is oxytocin delivered and stored in the rural areas?

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Statement of the problem: The question is how is the delivery process and storage of oxytocin in remote areas? It is necessary to explore because oxytocin, which is an uterotonic drug, is most frequently used in low and middle income countries. International Pharmacopoeia has recommended storing oxytocin at 2-8oC and protecting it from sunlight exposure. Without cooler box, in field conditions particularly in tropical climates, oxytocin will lose its potential. This study aims to describe the delivery process and the storage of oxytocin from suppliers until it is given to patients.

Methodology: A mixed method with exploratory design was used. Data collecting was done in Indragiri Hilir Regency, the Province of Riau, Indonesia. There were 32 participants getting involved in in-depth interviews and 123 respondents filled in questionnaires and all were verified using supporting data.

Findings: The findings of this study describe the procurement of oxytocin, the delivery process including how to carry oxytocin as well as conditions and length of storage before it is distributed or given to the patient.

Conclusion & significance: The cold chain of oxytocin is not maintained from the supplier to the patient. Tolerance of the oxytocin cold chain deviation cannot be used as a justification. Given that haemorrhage is a major cause of maternal death in the world.



Figure 5: Storage of oxytocin in the small plastic locker



Figure 6: Oxytocin that is stored in the refrigerator

Biography

Indrayani is a midwife with several working experiences as a nurse of public health center, midwife practitioner, midwife lecturer, researcher, and writer. Her research interests are midwives in communities, midwifery education, and maternal mortality particularly postpartum haemorrhage. Her job has led her to work with several collaborative partners such as the Ministry of Health, government and non-government institutions, association and broader community of midwives. She has published 4 books on midwifery and more than 19 papers of prosiding and journals both nationally and internationally.

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