Health problem addressed

Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the most common cause of maternal deaths worldwide. Ninety-nine percent of maternal deaths occur in resource-poor countries where most deliveries take place at home or in rudimentary health facilities. Inaccurate blood loss estimates often delay recognition of PPH and interventions in low-resource settings.

Product description

The calibrated blood collection drape was designed to assist in estimating postpartum blood loss in low-resource settings.

Product functionality

The blood collection drape consists of a funneled and calibrated collecting pouch attached to a plastic sheet that is placed under the woman’s buttocks immediately after delivery. Two belts attached to the upper end of the drape are tied around the woman’s abdomen to optimize blood collection.

Developer’s claims of product benefits

The blood collection drape consists of a funneled and calibrated collecting pouch attached to a plastic sheet that is placed under the woman’s buttocks immediately after delivery. Two belts attached to the upper end of the drape are tied around the woman’s abdomen to optimize blood collection.

Operating steps

The current standard of practice is visual estimation, which has been shown to be inaccurate. Our product shows potential to improve the accuracy and is easy to use.

Development stage

The blood collection drape was developed for use in a randomized clinical trial in village India in 2002. A randomized, controlled hospital-based study was conducted in India in 2003 which showed that the blood collection drape was more accurate than visual estimation.

Future work and challenges

- Use and maintenance

  User: Nurse, midwife
  Training: None
  Maintenance: single use

- Environment of use

  Setting: Rural areas, at home and in primary health care facilities.
  Requirements: None

Product specifications

- Retail Price (USD): 1.2
- Other features: Portable and single-use.

Contact details

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