Red Blood Cell Salvage During Obstetric Hemorrhage

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(Obstet Gynecol 2015;125:919–23)

1. What do the authors mean by red blood cell salvage? How is red blood cell salvage similar to or different from autologous blood transfusion? What about allogenic blood transfusion?

2. What is the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ position regarding both red blood cell salvage and autologous transfusion? Describe the current policy at your institution regarding red blood cell salvage. Do you offer red blood salvage at your institution for obstetric hemorrhage? Approximately how many patients at your institution or practice undergo red blood cell salvage each year?

3. Discuss the risks and benefits of red blood cell salvage compared with allogenic blood transfusion.

4. Identify the primary objectives of the study. Attribute a study design and discuss your rationale for the assignment.

5. What do the authors mean by standby case? What about packed red blood cell equivalent? Summarize the authors’ procedure for red blood cell salvage and discuss any features that would be difficult to implement at your institution.

6. Describe the main findings of the study, including the proportion of salvage procedures that were standby cases and the average volumes transfused.

7. Discuss any additional study limitations or advantages that you feel were not acknowledged by the authors. Given the opportunity to design this study, what would you do differently?

8. Considering the study findings and the results of the Cochrane Review on cell salvage (see Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2010; 4:CD001888), discuss whether or not you would change your practice regarding cell salvage for obstetric hemorrhage. Discuss how your management will change or why the findings will not influence management.