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Subject: postpartum hemorrhage

Posted by [pstephenson](#) on Thu, 13 Mar 2014 19:35:53 GMT

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The DHS needs a question on whether the woman received oxytocin injection or misoprostol by mouth at the time of delivery.

If you need to drop a question I have my doubts about the usefulness of question 423 (did you take a drug for intestinal worms). Obviously if one is focused on anemia 423 would be important but receiving a prophylactic uterotonic to prevent postpartum hemorrhage is a major component of maternal health programs and should be collected. The other question that might be deleted would be 419 since it could be highly subject to recall bias. It would be useful to check the validity and reliability of answers to this.

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Subject: Re: postpartum hemorrhage

Posted by [cstanton](#) on Mon, 31 Mar 2014 15:55:57 GMT

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I couldn't agree more that we need a question on prophylactic uterotonics in the DHS - which is why we conducted a validation study of women's recall/ability to report on various aspects of intrapartum care in Mozambique (published in PLoS One and included in the PLoS MED supplement on improving the measurement of health care coverage via population-based surveys). Unfortunately, reporting on prophylactic use of uterotonics was very poor and we could not recommend its inclusion in the next round of DHS or MICS surveys, much to our disappointment. Our conclusion was that perhaps if there were a big push re: patient education so that they should expect to receive an injection immediately following birth, that reporting might improve. However, much of the oxytocin given in hospitals is given via IV and that would be even more difficult to report on. Sadly, I think data on prophylactic uterotonics will have to come from health facility-based data.

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Subject: Re: postpartum hemorrhage

Posted by [amoran](#) on Thu, 10 Apr 2014 14:29:12 GMT

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I also strongly agree that we need a question on prophylactic use of oxytocin to prevent PPH. However, given the results of the Mozambique validation study (PLoS One), it is not feasible to include this type of question in a household survey. I agree that we will need to work to get this information from facility-based data. However, it is important to assess the feasibility of asking about use of misoprostol tablets to prevent PPH.

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