



Table 3 Comparison of management strategies for postpartum haemorrhage.

	RCOG [8]	AAGBI	WHO [11]	NICE [10]	Authors' strategy
Primary monitoring	Coagulation screen	Coagulation screen	NA	NA	FIBTEM + coagulation screen
Support for point-of-care	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	Yes
Empirical FFP	1 l FFP for every 6 units red cells or > 4500 ml PPH	1 l if massive transfusion anticipated	NA	NA	Only in exceptional circumstances
Goal-directed FFP	15 ml.kg ⁻¹ if PT/aPTT > 1.5× normal	15 ml.kg ⁻¹ to prevent PT/aPTT becoming > 1.5× normal High volume if > 1.5× normal	NA	NA	15 ml.kg ⁻¹ if FIBTEM < 12 mm or PT/aPPT abnormal Higher volume if > 1.5× normal
Fibrinogen	2 pools cryoprecipitate if < 1 g.l ⁻¹ or if > 4500 ml PPH and blood tests not available	Cryoprecipitate or fibrinogen concentrate to maintain Clauss fibrinogen > 1.5 g.l ⁻¹	NA	NA	Fibrinogen concentrate according to protocol based on POCT to maintain Fibrinogen > 11 mm
Platelets	< 50 × 10 ⁹ .l ⁻¹	< 75 × 10 ⁹ .l ⁻¹	NA	NA	< 75 × 10 ⁹ .l ⁻¹
Tranexamic acid	No	Yes	Yes if second line uterotonics have failed or bleed due to trauma	Yes	Yes
Recombinant factor VIIa	In life-threatening bleeding if fibrinogen > 1 g.l ⁻¹ and platelets > 20 × 10 ⁹ l ⁻¹	Centres need agree protocols and fibrinogen should be normal	Insufficient evidence to give opinion	Yes if other coagulation factors normal	Exceptionally rarely used. Fibrinogen > 2 g.l ⁻¹ and platelets > 50 × 10 ⁹ l ⁻¹

RCOG, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; AAGBI, Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland; WHO, World Health Organization; NICE, National Institute of Health and Care Excellence. NA, no advice given.







The use of blood components and their alternatives 2016

Published by
The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland

July 2016

PRODUCTS

- FFP
 - some units use formulaic protocols, eg. 1:1:1
 - however risk of dilution of fibrinogen, VIII, vWF if women have normal coagulation
- INR >1.5
- new guidelines - higher fib target

Table 3 Con

Primary monitoring
Support for post-operative care
Empirical FFP

Goal-directed FFP

Fibrinogen

Platelets
Tranexamic acid

Recombinant factor VIIa

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- Cryoprecipitate
 - guidelines recommend use of cryo if FFP not successful
 - \uparrow fib 0.5g/L for every pool of cryo
 - also contains high conc of FVIII, vWF, XIII
- Platelets
 - target $>50 \times 10^9/L$
 - trigger 75