

Medication	Mechanism of Action/Use in OB	Nursing Considerations
Methotrexate	It is used for abortion, ectopic pregnancy, neoplastic diseases. It is folic acid antagonist and inhibits cell division in embryos.	Nurse should monitor for adverse effects like N/V, gastric upset, diarrhea, abdominal pain, stomatitis.
Mifepristone	It is progesterone antagonist, allows prostaglandins to produce uterine contractions and causes endometrium to slough.	Monitor for headaches, vomiting, vaginal bleeding.
Rhogam	Suppresses immune response in Rh-negative female patients who are exposed to Rh-positive blood after abortions, miscarriages or pregnancies.	Nurse needs to tell the patient that she will need this medication every time she delivers baby which is Rh-positive.
Betamethasone	Supports fetal lung maturity by stimulating surfactant production and reduces risk of respiratory distress syndrome.	Nurse has to monitor for maternal pulmonary edema or pulmonary infection. Educate parents about the beneficial effect of this medication on preterm babies.
Indomethacin	Inhibits prostaglandins and that way inhibits uterine contractions to stop preterm labor.	Nurse has to monitor vital signs, uterine activity. Also has to monitor neonatal constriction of ductus arteriosus, necrotizing ductus arteriosus.
Magnesium Sulfate	Relaxes uterine contractions and stops preterm labor. Treats seizures in preeclampsia and eclampsia.	Nurse has to assess vital signs and deep tendon reflexes. Also has to assess N/V, dry mouth, lethargy, blurred vision, slow respirations.
Terbutaline Sulfate	It is derivative of epinephrine, stress hormone. It is used in preterm labor, and in asthma.	Nurse has to be cautious with this medication because it has some serious adverse reactions.
Hydralazine hydrochloride	This medication is a smooth muscle relaxant, and improves perfusion to kidneys, uterus and brain. It reduces blood pressure.	This drug requires slow withdrawal when disconnected. Nurse has to monitor for palpitations, HA, tachycardia.
Labetalol	It is alpha-1 and beta blocker. Decreases blood pressure in pregnancy.	Nurse should know that this medication decreases BP but not maternal heart rate. It is necessary to monitor dizziness, vertigo, gastric pain, flatulence.
Nifedipine	It is a calcium channel blocker in uterine muscle and stops preterm labor.	Nurse has to be cautious when giving this medication together with magnesium sulfate, because of hypotension. Monitor flushing of the skin, headache, tachycardia. Contraindicated in women with CV disease.
	It is used in pregnancy to prevent	Nurse has to monitor for adverse

Calcium gluconate	miscarriage, preterm birth, preeclampsia and to decrease incidence of HTN.	effects like N/V, diarrhea and signs of toxicosis.
Misoprostol	Stimulates uterine contraction to terminate a pregnancy.	Monitor for N/V, diarrhea, vaginal bleeding, pain, fever.
Cervidil	This is PGE2, dinoprostone. It causes uterine contractions and elimination of uterine contents. It is used in the case of fetal death. Also, it is used to efface and dilate cervix in pregnancy at term.	Nurse will apply this gel to a client in a supine position, document time of insertion and the dose used.
Methylergonovine	It is used in atonic uterus to stop hemorrhaging.	Nurse has to assess baseline bleeding, uterine tone and vital signs every 15 minutes. Nurse should explain everything to client and monitor for adverse effects like seizure, uterine cramps or HTN.
Hepatitis B vaccine	It prevents hepatitis B in women of child bearing age. Also, it prevents transfer of this infection to fetus. This virus can damage liver and cause cirrhosis, liver failure or even a liver cancer.	Nurse needs to educate female patients of childbearing age about this vaccine.
Erythromycin eye ointment	It provides bactericidal and bacteriostatic action on Neisseria gonorrhoea and Chlamydia trachomatis conjunctivitis in a newborn.	Nurse should monitor for chemical conjunctivitis reaction after putting this ointment into newborn eyes.
Phytonadione	This is vitamin K given to newborn to prevent bleeding due to vit K deficiency in the first week of life. Vitamin K produces adequate clotting factors.	Nurse should give this medication IM in first hours after birth and monitor for signs of bleeding.
Prenatal vitamins	Prenatal vitamins are folic acid. Folic acid helps cell growth. It prevents neural tube defects like spina bifida and anencephaly during fetal development.	This vitamin has to be taken in the body daily because our body cannot produce it. It has to be taken in higher doses three months before pregnancy, during pregnancy and during lactation.
MMR vaccine	This vaccine is given to produce immunity against mumps, measles and rubella.	It is given to children 12 months old and older.

