Threats to Oxytocin in the Health Supply Chain

What are they and how do we address them?

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USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program
Procurement and Supply Management
Discussion Agenda

1) Context
2) Prevalence of substandard oxytocin
3) Supply chain threats to oxytocin quality
4) What to do!
Overview: Maternal Cause of Death and the Role of Oxytocin

- Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal death\(^1\)
- WHO recommends oxytocin for the prevention and treatment of PPH\(^2,3\)
- Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) use oxytocin because it is:
  - Included on most essential medicines lists
  - Commonly used
  - Available in public health supply chains
The Prevalence of Substandard Oxytocin is High in Many Low- and Middle-Income Countries

According to a recent WHO literature review, over one-third of the 559 samples were substandard.\textsuperscript{4}

\textit{Implication:} one third of women would have received less oxytocin than expected. \textsuperscript{4}
Threats to Quality
- Manufacturing process
- Procurement practices
- Re-packaging
- Distribution and transportation conditions
- Storage conditions
- Dispensing conditions
- Patient handling
Don’t Forget About the Importance of Labelling!

Inconsistent labelling causes confusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storage Conditions listed on Labels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>do not freeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2°-8°C, do not freeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2°-8°C protect from light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2°-8°C protect from light and heat</td>
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<tr>
<td>2°-15°C protected from light</td>
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<tr>
<td>8°-20°C protected from light</td>
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<tr>
<td>8°-25°C do not freeze</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 25°C protected from light</td>
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<tr>
<td>below 25°C protected from light don’t freeze</td>
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<tr>
<td>do not exceed 30°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>do not exceed 30°C, do not freeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep in cold, dry, dark place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep in cold, dry, dark place, do not freeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keep in cool and dark place</td>
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<tr>
<td>not available</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key Actions and Recommendations
Key Actions for National Medicines Regulatory Authorities

- Only register quality-assured oxytocin that is labeled for storage at 2-8°C
- Work with maternal health and immunization program directors to communicate changes
- Ensure that on-going post-marketing surveillance is carried out
Actions for Supply Chain Managers

- Evaluate options for inclusion of oxytocin into functional cold chains, including that used for immunization
- Advocate for investment in improved cold chain infrastructure
- Communicate the importance of maintaining oxytocin in the cold chain throughout the supply chain
Buy Quality-Assured Oxytocin!

- Designed to assist procurement agencies and specialists in establishing a quality assurance system for the procurement of maternal, newborn, and child health products.
- Provides detailed product specifications for priority commodities

References


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The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project is funded under USAID Contract No. AID-OAA-I-15-0004. GHSC-PSM connects technical solutions and proven commercial processes to promote efficient and cost-effective health supply chains worldwide. Our goal is to ensure uninterrupted supplies of health commodities to save lives and create a healthier future for all. The project purchases and delivers health commodities, offers comprehensive technical assistance to strengthen national supply chain systems, and provides global supply chain leadership. For more information, visit ghsupplychain.org.

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