## Manual removal of the placenta: Evaluation of some risk factors and management outcome in a tertiary maternity unit. A case controlled study

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#### ABSTRACT

Objective: Lack of consensus on when to diagnose and manage retained placenta in the absence of hemorrhage in the 3rd stage of labor, has often subjected Manual removal of placenta (MROP) to the discretion of the accoucher. This study aimed to appraise the practice of manual removal of placenta in a tertiary institution in Nigeria with a view to evaluating risk factors for the procedure and advance probable guidelines to enhance standardization of diagnosis of retained placenta, Design: Case controlled study, Setting: Tertiary maternity center in South west Nigeria. Participants: Data from the hospital records of 92 parturients who had MROP from January to December 2009 were compared with 91 immediate next parturients without MROP matched for age and parity. Variables such as the past obstetric and gynecological history, status of accoucher, gestational age at delivery, duration of 3<sup>rd</sup> stage, estimated blood loss, quantum of blood transfused and length of hospitalization were extracted and subjected to statistical analysis using the SPSS package, Results: There were 4613 deliveries of which 92 parturients had MROP. an incidence of 1.99%. The mean duration of 3" stage in the study group was  $35.6 \pm 18.8$  minutes compared to  $21.6 \pm 6.28$  minutes in the control. Doctors were the accoucher in 96.8% of cases while midwives took the deliveries in \$4.4% in the control group. Previous scarring of the pregnant uterus such as dilatation and curettage and caesarean section predisposed to MROP compared to the control group (P < 0.032) and (P <0.024) respectively but there was no significant difference between the two groups with respect to previous myomectomy. Conclusion: There is a need to establish standard guidelines in the management of the 3rd stage of labor with definite criteria for diagnosis of retained placenta to reduce the probable risk of unnecessary MIROP.

Keywords: Accoucher, "Haemorrhage"; Parturients "MROP": Myomectomy

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Manual Removal of Placenta is a common obstetric procedure performed in the third stage of labor as treatment of the retained placenta when it is undelivered for more than 30 mins, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) [1]. Manual removal of placenta is advised at anything between 20 minutes and over 1 hour into the third stage [2,3]. The choice of timing is a balance between the post-partum hemorrhage risk of leaving the placenta in situ, the likelihood of spontaneous delivery within 60 minutes and the knowledge from caesarean section studies that the manual removal itself causes haemorrhage [4,5]. However spontaneous expulsion after 60 minutes is very rare [1,4].

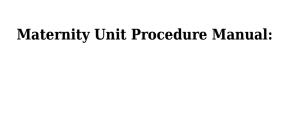
Retained placenta is a potentially life-threatening condition and a common cause of maternal death from postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) 15.61. It affects 0.5% - 3.3% of women following vaginal delivery [4,5,7,8]. Hemorrhage during pregnancy, birth or postpartum period is said to account for 25% of maternal deaths in Africa and South east Asia countries, About 15% - 20% of these maternal deaths from post partum hemorrhage are due to retained placenta which will require manual removal of placenta compared with normal delivery of placenta [6,8.9]. Retained placenta is the second major indication for blood transfusion in the third stage of labor [10]. A number of observational studies on vaginal deliveries have shown an association between the length of 3rd stage of labor and the incidence of post-partum hemorrhage [11-13], this association does not necessarily imply causality. Occurrence of maternal morbidity and mortality from retained placenta has been linked to the non availability of skilled birth attendants to perform manual



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#### **Table of Contents Maternity Unit Procedure Manual**

- 1. Understanding the eBook Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
- 2. Identifying Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - o Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - $\circ \ \ Determining \ Your \ Reading \ Goals$
- 3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - User-Friendly Interface
- 4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Personalized Recommendations

- Maternity Unit Procedure Manual User Reviews and Ratings
- Maternity Unit Procedure Manual and Bestseller Lists
- 5. Accessing Maternity Unit Procedure Manual Free and Paid eBooks
  - Maternity Unit Procedure Manual Public Domain eBooks
  - Maternity Unit Procedure Manual eBook Subscription Services
  - Maternity Unit Procedure Manual Budget-Friendly Options
- 6. Navigating Maternity Unit Procedure Manual eBook Formats
  - ∘ ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Maternity Unit Procedure Manual Compatibility with Devices
  - Maternity Unit Procedure Manual Enhanced eBook Features
- 7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - o Interactive Elements Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
- 8. Staying Engaged with Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - o Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Setting Reading Goals Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Maternity Unit Procedure Manual
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Maternity Unit Procedure Manual

- Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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