

Postpartum Haemorrhage

Nursing

The four causes, why tone dominates them, and what the nursing role is.

Excessive bleeding after birth, most often because the uterus is not contracting down.

COMMONEST CAUSE

Tone

FIRST RESPONSE

Call for help

WATCH

Pulse before BP

- Tone — a uterus that fails to contract, the commonest
- Tissue — retained placenta or membranes
- Trauma — tears, incision, or uterine rupture
- Thrombin — a clotting abnormality
- Blood loss is routinely underestimated by eye
- Signs may be masked until compensation fails

LOOK FOR IT

A rising pulse with a soft, high uterus is concerning even when visible loss looks modest.

Educational reference. Time-critical obstetric emergency. Summon the team immediately; management follows local maternity emergency