

Ferring India Factsheet

Maternal mortality landscape in India

- Maternal health remains a significant problem in India. **India** continues to contribute to about a **quarter of all global maternal deaths**.¹
- Nearly **45,000 mothers die during childbirth every year in India** which accounts for 17% of such deaths globally.¹

Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) as the leading cause of maternal mortality⁴

- PPH or severe bleeding after childbirth, is defined as blood loss of 500ml or more within 24 hours after birth.²
- It contributes to **38% of maternal deaths in India**.²

Improving healthcare for women during childbirth in order to prevent and treat PPH is an essential step towards saving mother's lives.³

Preventing PPH with uterotonics like oxytocin (or carbetocin)

- Uterotonics are agents that induce contraction of uterus and prevent or stop postpartum haemorrhage.
- The **majority of deaths due to PPH could be avoided through the use of prophylactic uterotonics** during the third stage of labour and by timely management.³
- **Injectable oxytocin** has been **recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO)** and is the preferred drug for the prevention and management of PPH.³
- However, **oxytocin (or carbetocin) needs to be stored under refrigeration** to retain its potency.³
- India faces a number of issues with refrigeration of oxytocin:
 - **Lack of robust infrastructure or cold-storage facility** while storing or transporting the drug⁴
 - **Lack of awareness among nurses and chemists** about storing and handling the drug⁵

Due to these issues, **maintaining refrigeration for oxytocin can be difficult** and the drug can lose its potency leading to **suboptimal treatment and loss of life**.³

Heat-stable carbetocin

- A **heat-stable (HS) variant of carbetocin** has recently been **developed**.³
- Due to its formulation, stability studies have shown that HS carbetocin could be **stored at 30°C for at least 36 months** and also at 40°C for short periods of time.³

HS carbetocin therefore represents a **promising intervention for reducing PPH**, particularly in settings such as **India** where cold storage is difficult to achieve and maintain.³

CHAMPION trial

- **Ferring Pharmaceuticals and MSD**, through its MSD for Mothers initiative, announce **completion of largest clinical trial ever conducted in PPH**, called the **CHAMPION trial**.
- The CHAMPION trial (Carbetocin Haemorrhage Prevention), conducted by the Human Reproduction Program (HRP) at **WHO**, enrolled nearly **30,000 women in 10 countries including India**.
- The trial assessed effectiveness and safety of HS carbetocin vs. oxytocin for preventing PPH after vaginal birth.
- The results of this trial will be published in one of the most renowned journal, **The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)**.

References:

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