

Treatment based on the underlying cause

Treatment for secondary postpartum hemorrhage depends partly on the cause.

- **Trauma.** Tranexamic acid is the recommended treatment when trauma is the suspected cause.
- **Infection.** Antibiotics, such as clindamycin with gentamicin, are indicated for infections caused by Group B streptococci, *Bacteroides*, *Escherichia coli*, *Clostridium perfringens*, and Lancefield Group D streptococci.
- **Retained placental fragments.** Manual fragment removal may be attempted. Surgical evacuation may be needed if medical or manual management fails. Prophylactic antibiotics (specifically first-generation cephalosporins) and uterotonic agents should be given.
- **Coagulation disorder or history of blood clots.** Therapeutic coagulation or anticoagulation should be implemented. Typically, treatment includes desmopressin and clotting concentrates.
- **Vascular abnormalities.** Arterial embolization has a 77% success rate in controlling secondary postpartum hemorrhage resulting from vascular abnormalities.