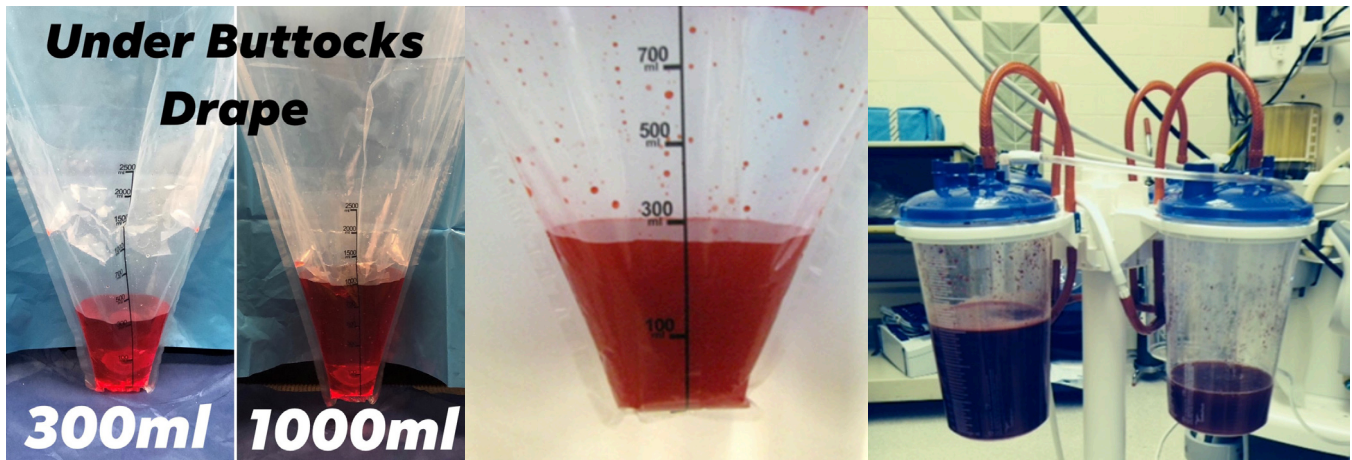


Appendix N: Techniques for Quantitative Assessment of Blood Loss (QBL)

Quantify blood loss by measuring

- ▶ Under buttock drapes with graduated markings – may have to lift bottom of drape out of the kick bucket to see markings
- ▶ Graduated collection containers
- ▶ Account for other fluids (amniotic fluid, urine)
- ▶ At C/S hold irrigation until after blood loss calculated



Quantify blood loss by weight

- ▶ Make scales available in all delivery rooms
- ▶ Standardize supplies and establish dry weights of commonly used items (Chux, peripads, lap holder, etc.)
- ▶ Incorporate weighing of appropriate materials into routine practice
- ▶ Build electronic calculator into electronic health record (EHR)



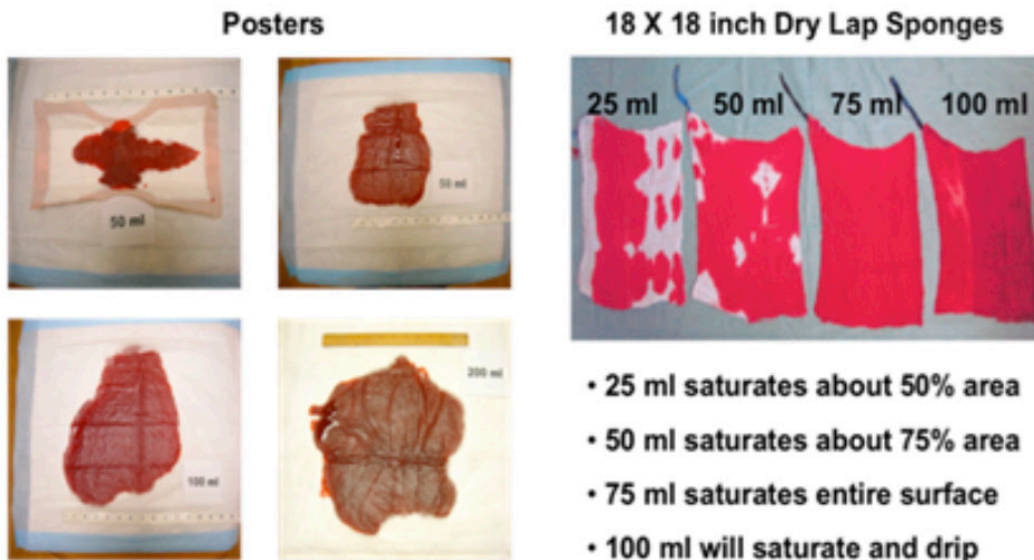
Quantify Blood Loss by colorimetric analysis system

- ▶ Use of a computer system programmed with a color density-based algorithm to quantify hemoglobin content in cannisters, containers, and absorbed by surgical sponges.

Use formal estimation only if other methods are unavailable

- ▶ Record percent (%) saturation of blood-soaked items with the use of visual cues such as pictures/posters to determine blood volume equivalence of saturated/blood-soaked item.

Training Tools



(Photos courtesy of Leah Romine, RN and Jennifer McNulty, MD and used with permission)

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