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## (54) POSTPARTUM FLUID LOSS RECEPTACLE

(71) I, JOHN NOBLE HASWELL, of  
 607 Dubois Street, Vincennes, Indiana  
 47591, United States of America, a citizen  
 of the United States of America, do hereby  
 5 declare the invention, for which I pray that  
 a patent may be granted to me, and the  
 method by which it is to be performed, to  
 be particularly described in and by the  
 following statement:—  
 10 This invention relates to a postpartum  
 fluid loss receptacle. The receptacle can also  
 be used for measuring the amount of the  
 loss.  
 Surgical drapes are customarily used in  
 15 operating rooms. The drapes protect the  
 surgically prepared areas of the skin from  
 contamination. Unprepared portions of the  
 skin and of the room are also isolated by  
 the drapes from the prepared areas, thereby  
 20 reducing the danger of contamination.  
 Surgical drapes are also employed in a  
 delivery room when a woman gives birth to  
 a child. During delivery, the woman will  
 lose a significant amount of amniotic fluid  
 25 and blood. It is desirable that these fluids  
 be collected to protect the delivery table and  
 surrounding areas from being unduly  
 soiled. Additionally, collection of these  
 fluids permits the physician to determine  
 30 the proper treatment of the mother, and to  
 evaluate the mother's speed of recovery.  
 Present surgical drapes do not permit the  
 postpartum fluids to be easily and totally  
 collected and readily measured.  
 35 In U.S. Patent No. 3,452,750 there is  
 disclosed a vaginal bib which is attached to  
 the woman's buttocks by adhesive. The  
 device, while appropriate for certain  
 surgical applications, is not suited to be  
 40 used during childbirth, primarily because of

its method and location of placement.

A method and device for collecting and  
 measuring postpartum blood loss is dis-  
 closed in U.S. Patent No. 3,646,938. The  
 device comprises a substantially flat, pliable 45  
 sheet which is placed beneath the buttocks  
 of the patient, and the blood lost is  
 collected thereon. When held pendently, the  
 sheet causes the blood to form a pool and  
 graduations on the sheet permit measure- 50  
 ment of the blood collected to be made. The  
 device and method of U.S. Patent No.  
 3,646,938 permit collection and measure-  
 ment of postpartum blood loss. One aspect 55  
 of the present invention, however, is the  
 provision of an improved device of the type  
 disclosed in this prior Patent, the improve-  
 ment facilitating increased accuracy in the  
 measurement of the amount of blood 60  
 collected.

It is an object of the present invention to  
 provide a postpartum fluid loss receptacle  
 which is easily used and fully collects lost  
 fluid.

According to this invention a postpartum 65  
 fluid loss receptacle comprises a flexible,  
 substantially flat sheet having an aperture,  
 and a pocket sealingly attached to the sheet  
 about the aperture, the pocket being of a  
 flexible material which is nonabsorbent to 70  
 body fluids, and the pocket including  
 graduations to indicate the volume of  
 material contained within the pocket.

The invention will now be described by  
 way of example with reference to the 75  
 drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a top plan of an embodiment  
 of the receptacle of the invention;

Figure 2 is a side elevation;

Figure 3 is an end elevation; and 80

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the receptacle being held pendently at its corners.

The postpartum fluid loss receptacle of the present invention provides a simple and efficient means for collecting and measuring the amount of fluid lost by a woman in giving birth to a child. The material from which the receptacle is constructed must therefore be suitable for surgical use. Primarily, the material should be aseptic and should be easily manipulated by the persons attending the woman during and after childbirth.

A second requirement of the material comprising the present receptacle is that it have sufficient flexibility and strength. The material should be flexible or pliable to permit the receptacle to be folded for transportation and storage. At the same time, the materials should be strong enough to support the weight of the fluids which will be collected therein. The present receptacle is designed primarily to collect the amniotic fluid and the blood which is lost during and subsequent to childbirth.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown an embodiment of the invention. A receptacle 40 comprises a flexible sheet 30, and includes a generally oval, slit-like aperture 31. The sheet 30 includes a bottom layer 32 of plastics material which is nonabsorbent to body fluids. The top layer 33 of the sheet 30 comprises a material which is absorbent to body fluids.

Sealingly attached to the bottom layer 32 is a generally conical receptacle 34. The receptacle 34 comprises a flexible sheet 35 which is nonabsorbent to body fluids. The sheet 35 is folded over upon itself, and two adjacent edges are sealingly joined continuously from the point 36 to the point of attachment to the sheet 30, forming seam 37. The receptacle 34 is of clear, plastics material and includes graduations 38 for reading directly the volume of material contained within the receptacle 34.

In use, the sheet 30 is placed under the buttocks and thighs of the patient and in that position receives any postpartum blood

loss. The sheet 30 is then held pendently by support points 39 as shown in Figure 4, and the amount of blood loss is read directly by graduations 38.

#### WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A postpartum fluid loss receptacle comprising a flexible, substantially flat sheet having an aperture, and a pocket sealingly attached to the sheet about the aperture, the pocket being of a flexible material which is nonabsorbent to body fluids, and the pocket including graduations to indicate the volume of material contained within the pocket.

2. A method of collecting and measuring postpartum blood loss which comprises:—  
placing the sheet of the receptacle of claim 1 under the buttocks of a patient;  
collecting the blood upon the sheet;  
grasping the sheet at predetermined support points adjacent its periphery;  
holding the sheet pendently at the support points to cause the blood to pool within the pocket; and  
reading the blood loss directly by aid of the graduations.

3. A receptacle according to claim 1 wherein the sheet includes a top layer and a bottom layer, the top layer being absorbent to, and the bottom layer being non-absorbent to, body fluids.

4. A receptacle according to claim 3 wherein the pocket comprises a sheet of flexible material having adjacent first and second edges, the first edge being folded over against the second edge, and the first and second edges being sealingly attached continuously along a line extending from the point of adjacency.

5. A postpartum fluid loss receptacle constructed and arranged substantially as herein described and shown in the drawings.

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