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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.

15 Surgical drapes are customarily used in 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.

25 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 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 disclosed in U.S. Patent No.3,646,938. The 45 device comprises a substantially flat, pliable 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 measurement of the blood collected to be made. The device and method of U.S. Patent No. 3,646,938 permit collection and measurement of postpartum blood loss. One aspect 50 of the present invention, however, is the provision of an improved device of the type disclosed in this prior Patent, the improvement facilitating increased accuracy in the measurement of the amount of blood 55 collected.

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

65 According to this invention a postpartum 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 body fluids, and the pocket including graduations to indicate the volume of material contained within the pocket.

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

75 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

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

The postpartum fluid loss receptacle of 5 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 10 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.

15 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 trans- 20 portation 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 25 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 30 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 35 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 40 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 45 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 50 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. 55

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. 65

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. 80

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. 85

5. A postpartum fluid loss receptacle constructed and arranged substantially as herein described and shown in the drawings. 90

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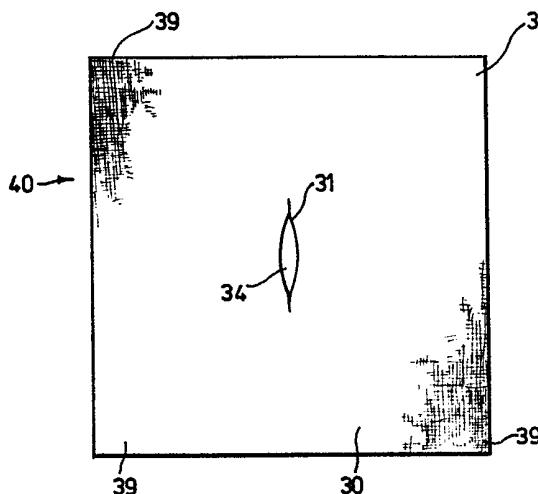


Fig.1.

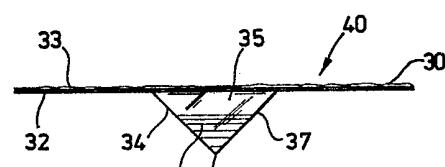


Fig.2.

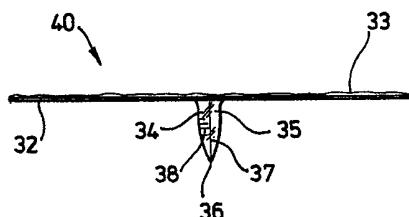


Fig.3.

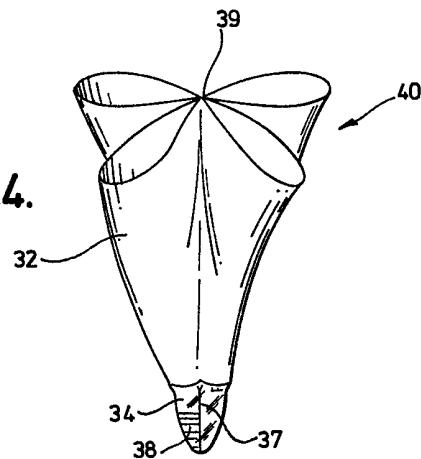


Fig.4.