

Where severe hæmorrhage has occurred it is not safe to do anything which may provoke a further loss of blood until the bulk of fluid in the vessels has been augmented, and for this purpose saline solution answers the purpose almost as well as blood itself.

Life may be maintained with the blood reduced to 15% or even less in corpuscular elements, but the blood pressure cannot be maintained without sufficient fluid in the vessels to fill them. I have seen two women lose their lives owing to the omission of this simple procedure before turning was attempted.

A woman who has engaged a doctor to attend her in confinement has a right to expect that he will be prepared to properly meet all recognized complications and emergencies efficiently, and the man who goes to a case of placenta prævia without a saline transfusion apparatus is not affording her the insurance which she has a right to expect from a legally qualified practitioner.

Where hæmorrhage has been severe, transfusion should be done before attempts at delivery are made by any method.

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