

A cost-effectiveness analysis of early detection and bundled treatment of postpartum hemorrhage alongside the E-MOTIVE trial

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A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper

Timely detection and treatment of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) are crucial to prevent complications or death. A calibrated blood-collection drape can help provide objective, accurate and early diagnosis of PPH, and a treatment bundle can address delays or inconsistencies in the use of effective interventions. Here we conducted an economic evaluation alongside the E-MOTIVE trial, an international, parallel cluster-randomized trial with a baseline control phase involving 210,132 women undergoing vaginal delivery across 78 secondary-level hospitals in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. We aimed to assess the cost-effectiveness of the E-MOTIVE intervention, which included a calibrated blood-collection drape for early detection of PPH and a bundle of first-response treatments (uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, tranexamic acid, intravenous fluids, examination and escalation), compared with usual care. We used multilevel modeling to estimate incremental cost-effectiveness ratios from the perspective of the public healthcare system for outcomes of cost per severe PPH (blood loss $\geq 1,000$ ml) avoided and cost per disability-adjusted life-year averted. Our findings suggest that the use of a calibrated blood-collection drape for early detection of PPH and bundled first-response treatment is cost-effective and should be perceived by decision-makers as a worthwhile use of healthcare budgets. ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT04341662](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04341662).

Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), defined as blood loss ≥ 500 ml from the genital tract after childbirth, is the leading cause of maternal death worldwide, accounting for approximately 27% of maternal deaths^{1,2}. PPH is a major concern in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where PPH-associated mortality is disproportionately high³. PPH is associated with considerable economic burden: recent estimates from a study conducted in Kenya, India, Nigeria and Uganda suggest the costs of direct hospital care for patients with PPH can be up to 2.8 times higher than for a birth without PPH⁴. In addition, the immediate and long-term economic consequences of maternal mortality incurred by households can be substantial^{5–7}.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published and updated several evidence-informed recommendations for the prevention and treatment of PPH^{8,9}. However, adherence to these recommendations in many low-resource settings is limited by numerous challenges. First, PPH is often undetected or detected late; consequently, life-saving treatment is not promptly initiated. The current usual practice of blood-loss assessment is visual estimation, which is widely recognized as inaccurate and typically leads to underestimation of blood loss¹⁰. An additional challenge is delayed or inconsistent use of effective interventions for the management of PPH. Treatments for PPH are often administered sequentially; healthcare providers wait to observe the

✉ e-mail: t.e.roberts@bham.ac.uk

| E | M | O | T | IV | E |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Early detection and trigger criteria | Massage of uterus | Oxytocic drugs | TXA | IV fluids | Examination and escalation |
| <p>Calibrated drape for the collection of blood with trigger lines at 300 ml and 500 ml for the first h after birth</p> <p>Observations (blood loss, blood flow and uterine tone) every 15 min documented on the blood-loss monitoring chart</p> <p>Blood pressure and pulse monitored once in the first hour postpartum and documented on the blood-loss monitoring chart</p> <p>Trigger criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) clinical judgment 2) blood loss ≥ 500 ml 3) blood loss ≥ 300 ml plus one abnormal observation | <p>Massage until uterus has contracted or for 1 min</p> | <p>10 IU IV oxytocin injection or diluted in 200–500 ml crystalloid over 10 min plus a maintenance dose of 20 IU IV oxytocin diluted in 1,000 ml saline over 4 h (with misoprostol 800 µg if used)</p> | <p>1 g IV injection of TXA or diluted in 200 ml crystalloid over 10-min period</p> | <p>IV fluids in addition to the infusion should be given if clinically indicated for resuscitation and will require a second IV access</p> | <p>Ensure bladder is empty, evacuate clots and check for tears with an internal examination and placenta for completeness</p> <p>Escalate if bleeding does not stop after first response or if clinician is unable to identify or manage cause of bleeding</p> |
| <h3>Implementation strategies</h3> <p>Audit newsletters: sharing with all staff monthly detection and bundle use rates along with PPH, severe PPH, blood transfusion, laparotomy and death from PPH rates and given feedback at monthly departmental meetings</p> <p>Champions: midwife and doctor to oversee change, troubleshoot, give feedback on audit newsletters and connect with other champions through chats, meetings and websites for sharing knowledge and lessons learned</p> <p>Trolley or carry case: restocking of all medicines and devices used for PPH treatment after every use and completion of stocking checklist at the start of every shift</p> <p>Training: on-site, simulation-based and peer-assisted lasting 90 min to an entire workday facilitated by provider guides, flipcharts and job aids displayed in labor wards</p> | | | | | |

Fig. 1 | Summary of the E-MOTIVE intervention. The E-MOTIVE intervention included a calibrated blood-collection drape for early detection of PPH and a bundle of first-response treatments (uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, TXA, IV fluids, examination and escalation), supported by an implementation strategy.

effects of one intervention before administering another intervention¹¹. However, PPH is a time-critical condition, and such delays can result in loss of life. Some cost-effective interventions may not be used at all. Evidence from hospitals in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania showed that tranexamic acid (TXA), a medication used to prevent the breakdown of blood clots, was administered late and mostly as a last resort for patients requiring surgery due to PPH¹². Furthermore, despite the availability of clear recommendations regarding PPH and their wide dissemination, uptake at the point of care remains low¹³. An underpinning factor to some of the challenges relates to limited resources; therefore, it is imperative to evaluate the resource implications of new interventions for managing PPH.

To address these challenges, the cluster-randomized E-MOTIVE trial was designed to assess a multicomponent intervention for detection and treatment of PPH in patients having vaginal delivery. The E-MOTIVE intervention consisted of a calibrated blood-collection drape—a sterile fold-out sheet placed on the delivery bed enabling blood to be swept into a pouch with measurement lines indicating warning and action points—for early detection of PPH, and the WHO-proposed first-response bundle, which included uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, TXA, intravenous (IV) fluids and a process for examination and escalation (Fig. 1). The clinical effectiveness of the E-MOTIVE intervention has already been reported¹⁴. Evidence from the trial supported WHO recommendations for both routine objective measurement of postpartum blood loss for vaginal births, and a standardized and timely approach for managing PPH, comprising objective assessment of blood loss and the bundle, supported by an implementation strategy, for all vaginal births. In this Article, we report the economic evaluation conducted alongside the E-MOTIVE trial, an integral component of the E-MOTIVE project, which aimed to assess

the cost-effectiveness of the E-MOTIVE intervention compared with usual care. The economic evaluation, which was carried out from a healthcare system perspective, was based on the outcomes of cost per case of severe PPH prevented (blood loss, $\geq 1,000$ ml) and cost per disability-adjusted life-year (DALY) averted.

Results

A total of 104 secondary-level hospitals were assessed for eligibility for the E-MOTIVE trial. Fourteen were excluded due to prior implementation of an early-detection protocol or treatment bundle for PPH. Ninety hospitals in Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa and Tanzania entered the baseline phase. The independent data monitoring committee recommended completing the trial before randomizing hospitals in Pakistan, as the required sample size was achieved in the other four countries. Two hospitals in Kenya were excluded before randomization as they were unable to carry out source-data verification.

Eighty hospitals in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania underwent randomization at a 1:1 ratio to receive the E-MOTIVE intervention or continue providing usual care. Two hospitals in Tanzania, one in each group, did not receive the assigned intervention due to participation in a conflicting program. Following randomization, a 2-month transition was implemented to allow hospitals in the E-MOTIVE group to adapt clinical practices for intervention delivery. Data collected during this phase did not contribute to the analysis.

Data for analysis were obtained from 78 secondary-level hospitals (from 14 in Kenya, 38 in Nigeria, 14 in South Africa and 12 in Tanzania), with a total of 210,132 patients (110,473 in the baseline phase and 99,659 in the implementation phase) giving birth vaginally in the hospitals between 2 August 2021 and 3 March 2023. Source-verified data regarding blood loss were available for 206,455 patients (107,733

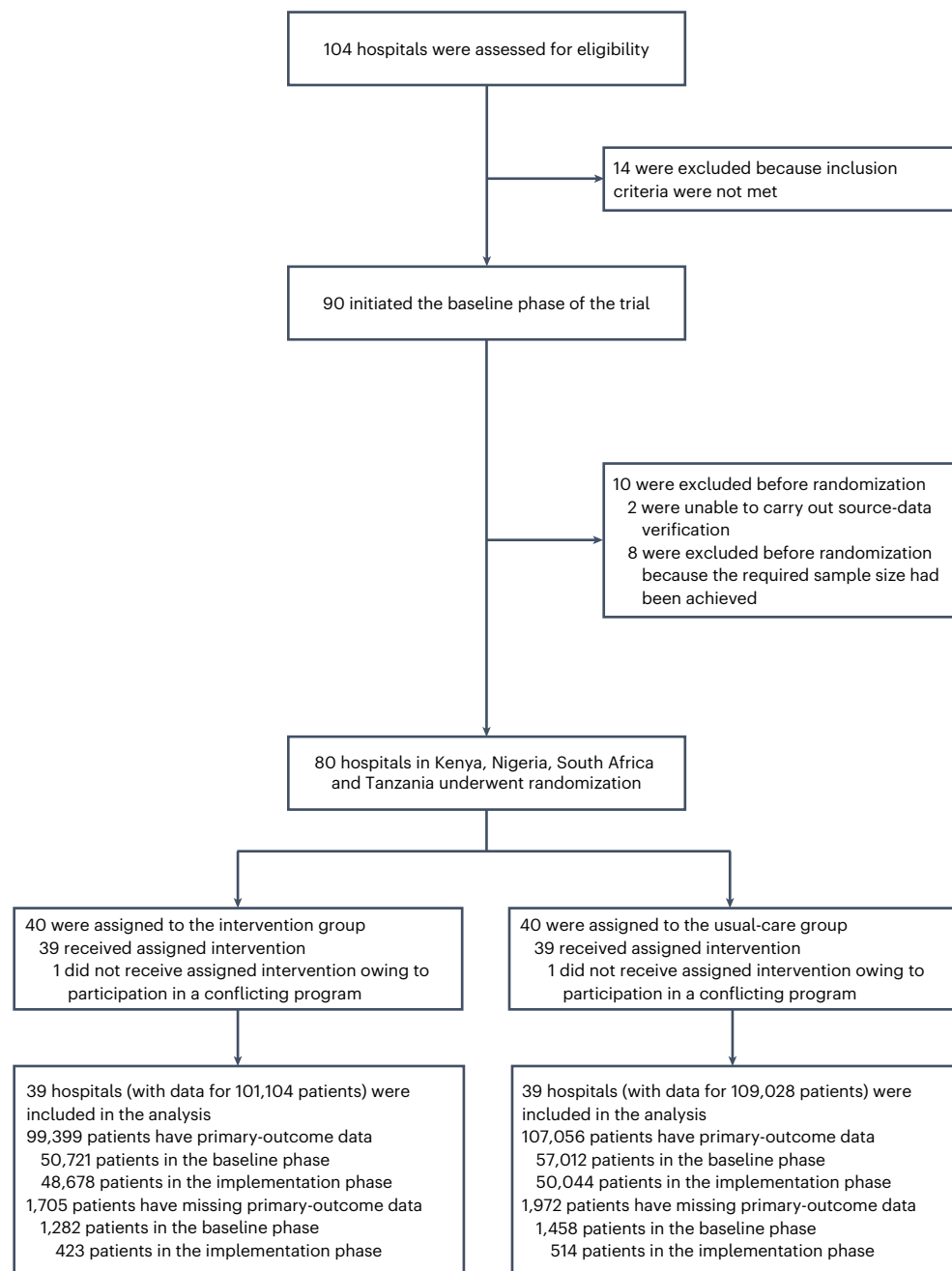


Fig. 2 | Randomization of hospitals in the E-MOTIVE trial. All participating hospitals entered a 7-month baseline period in which they provided usual care for patients having vaginal delivery. After the baseline phase, hospitals were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive the E-MOTIVE intervention or to continue providing usual care. Eighty hospitals across Kenya, Nigeria,

South Africa and Tanzania underwent randomization. Due to participating in a conflicting program, two hospitals in Tanzania did not receive the assigned intervention. Data for analysis were therefore available from 78 hospitals, with a total of 210,132 patients. Source-verified blood loss data for analysis were available for 206,455 patients.

in the baseline phase and 98,722 in the implementation phase; 98% follow-up) (Fig. 2). The clinical findings of the E-MOTIVE trial have been published in full elsewhere¹⁴.

Severe PPH occurred in 786 of 48,678 patients (1.6%) in the E-MOTIVE group and in 2129 of 50,043 (4.3%) in the usual-care group (adjusted risk difference -2.6% , 95% confidence interval (CI) -3.1% to -2.1% ; Table 1). In the E-MOTIVE group, the mean DALYs per patient was 0.00767 (standard deviation (s.d.) 0.394), and in the usual-care group, the mean DALYs per patient was 0.01158 (s.d. 0.454). The adjusted DALY difference between E-MOTIVE and usual care per patient was -0.00266 (95% CI -0.00814 to 0.00287 ; Table 1).

The resource utilization per group is presented in Supplementary Table 1. Notably, administration of oxytocin, TXA and IV fluids—three core elements of the MOTIVE first-response bundle—was more common in the E-MOTIVE group despite lower rates of PPH (8.5% compared with 16.7% in the usual-care group). This can be explained by the improved detection of PPH facilitated by the use of a calibrated blood-collection drape and consequent triggering of the bundle. The usual-care group experienced higher numbers of blood transfusions, marginally longer hospitalization and greater need for additional treatment interventions. Also, notably more severe PPH cases in the usual-care group necessitated additional time for physician attendance.

Table 1 | Mean per-patient total costs and DALYs, risk of severe PPH and ICERs

| | E-MOTIVE (N=48,678) | Usual care (N=50,044) | Adjusted difference ^b (95% CIs ^c) | ICER (2022 USD) |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Mean per-patient total cost (2022 USD) | 45.14 (107.93) | 43.19 (126.84) | 0.30 (−2.31 to 2.78) | |
| Mean per-patient DALYs | 0.00767 (0.394) | 0.01158 (0.454) | −0.00266 (−0.00814 to 0.00287) | 113.91 |
| Severe PPH ^a | 786 (1.6) | 2,129 (4.3) | −2.6 (−3.1 to −2.1) | 11.83 |

Values are mean (s.d.) or number (percentage). ^aAdjusted difference between severe PPH risks is presented in percentage points, and differences between mean values are presented in the unit of the values. ^bAdjusted for number of vaginal births per hospital, time period, country, the proportion of patients with a clinical primary-outcome event at each hospital and the quality of oxytocin at each hospital during the baseline phase and for clustering using random cluster and cluster-by-period effects. Baseline data before implementation of the intervention (107,733 patients in 78 clusters) for the intervention and usual-care groups are as follows: for mean total cost (USD), 45.43 (134.05) in the E-MOTIVE group and 42.05 (145.37) in the usual-care group; for mean DALYs, 0.01037 (0.427) in the E-MOTIVE group and 0.01314 (0.490) in the usual-care group; for severe PPH, 1,920/50,720 (3.8) in the E-MOTIVE group and 2,535/57,010 (4.4) in the usual-care group. ^cFor total costs and DALYs CIs were constructed using nonparametric permutation tests, by finding the upper and lower boundaries of the intervention effect that would lead to a two-sided *P* value less than the 5% level (1,000 replications).

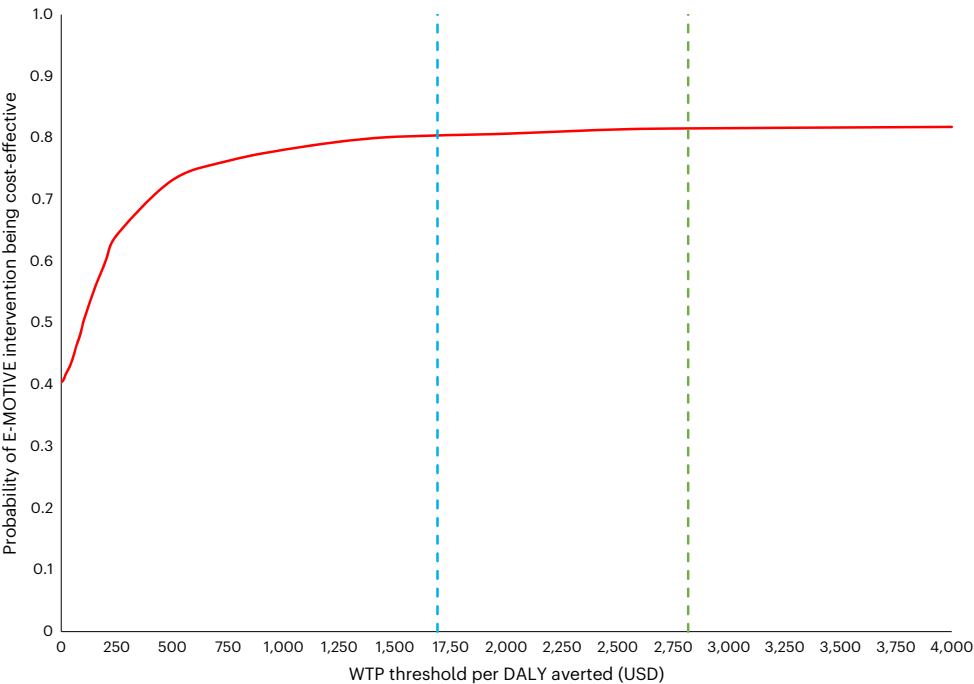


Fig. 3 | Cost-effectiveness acceptability curve indicating the probability of the E-MOTIVE intervention being cost-effective across different WTP thresholds for a DALY averted. The dashed lines show the expected WTP for a DALY averted, as estimated from WHO recommendations (green) and Woods and colleagues (blue).

Disaggregated mean per-patient costs are presented in Supplementary Table 2. The total unadjusted mean per patient cost was 45.15 USD (s.d. 107.93) in the E-MOTIVE group and 43.19 USD (s.d. 126.84) in the usual-care group (Table 1). The adjusted total cost difference was 0.30 USD (95% CI −2.31 to 2.78; Table 1). The estimated incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) (Table 1) are therefore 11.83 USD per case of severe PPH averted and 113.91 USD per DALY averted. The ICER in terms of DALYs is below both the weighted gross domestic product (GDP)-based threshold (2,816 USD) and opportunity-cost based threshold (1,690 USD) (Extended Data Table 1), suggesting the E-MOTIVE intervention is cost-effective. Figure 3 shows the probability of the E-MOTIVE intervention being cost-effective compared with usual care across a range of willingness-to-pay (WTP) thresholds per DALY averted. For thresholds of WTP per DALY averted greater than approximately 1,500 USD, there is >80% probability that the E-MOTIVE intervention is cost-effective (Fig. 3).

Sensitivity analyses

If the device cost of the calibrated drape is reduced to 1 USD (2023 prices), the E-MOTIVE intervention becomes comparable in cost to usual care, while being more effective (Table 2). Further reductions

in the cost of the calibrated drape could potentially result in cost savings. Additional sensitivity analyses to explore the impact of the costing assumptions and the use of multiple imputation (Supplementary Tables 3–5) made no substantial difference to the base-case results; the E-MOTIVE intervention remained cost-effective.

Country-level analyses

The mean per-patient total costs, DALYs and ICERs from the country-level analyses are presented in Extended Data Table 2. These were estimated using fully pooled, one-country costing models. Briefly, the E-MOTIVE intervention was judged to be cost-effective for each participating country when the ICERs were compared against both country-specific GDP-based WTP thresholds and opportunity-cost-based WTP thresholds (Extended Data Table 1). In South Africa, where the cost of calibrated drapes was lower relative to other resources, the E-MOTIVE intervention was estimated to be less expensive than usual care and, therefore, the dominant intervention based on the point estimates. Accordingly, exploratory analyses (see Supplementary Information, p. 7–11) suggest the budget impact of delivering the E-MOTIVE intervention in these countries would be insubstantial.

Table 2 | Deterministic sensitivity analyses varying calibrated blood-collection drape device cost

| Sensitivity analysis | Adjusted mean per-patient total cost difference (2022 USD) ^a | Adjusted mean per-patient DALY difference | ICER (2022 USD) |
|----------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| Drape cost 1 USD | −0.01 (−2.61 to 2.48) | 0.00266 (−0.00814 to 0.00287) | Dominant ^b |
| Drape cost 0.75 USD | −0.30 (−2.91 to 2.18) | 0.00266 (−0.00814 to 0.00287) | Dominant ^b |
| Drape cost 0.50 USD | −0.61 (−3.22 to 1.87) | 0.00266 (−0.00814 to 0.00287) | Dominant ^b |

Device costs of calibrated drapes are reported before adjustments to 2022 USD and for shipping, handling and internal distribution. ^aAdjusted for number of vaginal births per hospital, time period, country, the proportion of patients with a clinical primary-outcome event at each hospital and the quality of oxytocin at each hospital during the baseline phase and for clustering using random cluster and cluster-by-period effects. ^bDominance is based on point estimate only.

Discussion

This study assessed the cost-effectiveness of early detection of PPH using a calibrated drape and treatment using the WHO first-response treatment bundle, which included uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, TXA, IV fluids and a process for examination and escalation, compared with usual care. The findings suggest that early detection of PPH using a calibrated blood-loss collection drape and treatment with the WHO first-response bundle is cost-effective compared with usual care. Our sensitivity analysis suggested that for WTP values above 1,500 USD per DALY averted there is more than an 80% probability of the E-MOTIVE intervention being cost-effective. Furthermore, deterministic sensitivity analyses showed that potential reductions in the cost of the calibrated blood-collection drape could lead to cost savings, substantially improving the affordability of the E-MOTIVE intervention.

Although a formal quantification of resource use relating to the implementation strategies used to support the E-MOTIVE intervention was not conducted as part of the trial, emerging data suggest the cost of implementation can be effectively absorbed into the existing health-care system. The post-trial implementation pivot in the four countries indicates that implementing E-MOTIVE does not necessitate additional staffing, and on-site training can be conducted with negligible cost implications. Furthermore, costs related to PPH trolleys or carry cases are minimal and nonrecurrent, while the utilization of audit and feedback solutions and champions does not require additional resources (E-MOTIVE implementation pivot team, personal communication).

The study benefited from a large sample size recruited from 78 hospitals across four countries, broad inclusion criteria to capture all patients with vaginal births in the trial hospitals, and a wide range of primary data. However, the study is not without limitations. Although the analysis considered a range of costs for calibrated blood-collection drapes to account for potential price variations due to increased production, the cost-effectiveness implications of emerging sustainable and climate-friendly alternative devices could not feasibly be assessed¹⁵. Also, owing to the pragmatic design of the trial, extensive bottom-up costing of all resource items was not conducted. This naturally increases the uncertainty around the unit cost estimates used in the analysis. However, when feasible, cost estimates were obtained from established sources and other secondary sources based on bottom-up costing. Some assumptions were required to estimate country-specific unit costs when these were not available. All assumptions were agreed upon before any analysis was undertaken, and sensitivity analyses exploring their importance found that they did not substantially impact the cost-effectiveness results.

Furthermore, PPH and associated maternal mortality can involve considerable economic costs to patients, their families and wider

society^{5–7}. Owing to the pragmatic design of the trial, these costs were not captured. Given that there were fewer cases of severe PPH and less severe PPH in the E-MOTIVE group, and maternal deaths from bleeding, though rare, were in the same direction, it is likely that an analysis from the societal perspective—which considers medical and nonmedical costs not directly linked to the intervention—would produce even more favorable cost-effectiveness estimates for the E-MOTIVE intervention.

In addition, this analysis was conducted alongside a large international, cluster-randomized trial with a baseline control phase that presents complexities with respect to data analysis; for example, randomization took place at the cluster level, but outcomes were measured at the level of the individual. This was addressed using methods to account for the hierarchical nature of the data, and the analysis was adjusted for imbalances in outcomes during the baseline phase across trial groups. In addition, due to the substantial loss of power that would be experienced by analyzing countries in isolation, country-specific cost-effectiveness analyses were not conducted. However, we assessed cost-effectiveness from the perspective of each participating country based on whole trial data. To this end, we conducted fully pooled, one-country costing cost-utility analyses (CUAs) in which clinical data from all participating countries were pooled, and country-specific unit costs and life-expectancy data were applied to all patients in the trial. Although not fully country specific, we believe these estimates provide useful indicative information on cost-effectiveness for decision-makers given the widespread occurrence of visual blood loss estimation, and delayed and inconsistent use of effective PPH interventions, such as TXA, across countries. However, these estimates should be interpreted with caution.

Finally, this analysis does not quantify the potential health equity impacts associated with delivering the E-MOTIVE intervention—information likely to be important to decision-makers. The methods of conventional cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) focus on efficiency, that is, maximizing population health gain from available resources, rather than reducing health inequities. Although frameworks to robustly incorporate equity concerns into CEA are emerging, the substantial data requirements to conduct such an analysis were not feasible for the present analysis.

In summary, our findings suggest that early detection of PPH and bundled treatment for PPH is cost-effective. Therefore, provision of calibrated blood-collection drapes and use of bundled first-response treatment can be considered a worthwhile use of constrained health-care budgets, and every effort should be made to adhere to the WHO recommendations.

Online content

Any methods, additional references, Nature Portfolio reporting summaries, source data, extended data, supplementary information, acknowledgements, peer review information; details of author contributions and competing interests; and statements of data and code availability are available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-024-03069-5>.

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Eleanor V. Williams¹, **Ilias Goranitis²**, **Raymond Oppong¹**, **Samuel J. Perry¹**, **Adam J. Devall¹**, **James T. Martin¹**, **Kristie-Marie Mammoliti¹**, **Leanne E. Beeson¹**, **Kulandaipalayam N. Sindhu¹**, **Hadiza Galadanci³**, **Fadhilun Alwy Al-beity⁴**, **Zahida Qureshi⁵**, **G. Justus Hofmeyr^{6,7}**, **Neil Moran⁸**, **Sue Fawcus⁹**, **Sibongile Mandondo^{10,11}**, **Lee Middleton¹**, **Karla Hemming¹**, **Olufemi T. Oladapo¹²**, **Ioannis D. Gallos¹²**, **Arri Coomarasamy¹** & **Tracy E. Roberts¹**✉

¹College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK. ²Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. ³African Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy, College of Health Sciences, Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. ⁴Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. ⁵Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya. ⁶Effective Care Research Unit, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. ⁷Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana. ⁸KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. ⁹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa. ¹⁰Eastern Cape Department of Health, Bhisho, South Africa. ¹¹Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Walter Sisulu University, Mthatha, South Africa. ¹²UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. ✉e-mail: t.e.roberts@bham.ac.uk

Methods

Study design

The E-MOTIVE trial was an international, parallel cluster-randomized trial that included a baseline control phase¹⁴. A cluster design was required as the E-MOTIVE intervention was delivered at the hospital level, targeting health care providers. Between August and October 2021, all participating hospitals entered a 7-month baseline period during which they provided usual care for PPH in patients having vaginal delivery. Following this 7-month baseline period, hospitals were randomly assigned, in a 1:1 ratio, to continue providing usual care or to receive the E-MOTIVE intervention for 7 months, with a 2-month ‘transition phase’ to allow hospitals to adapt clinical practices for intervention delivery.

A minimization algorithm generated by an independent statistician was used to ensure balance between the intervention hospitals and usual-care hospitals within each country for key prognostic variables, including the number of vaginal births per hospital, the prevalence of primary-outcome events (for the clinical analysis) during the baseline, the quality of oxytocin and the number of hospitals per country.

Participants

We included secondary-level hospitals in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. Hospitals in Pakistan were initially included in the baseline phase but could not be included in the randomization process (Fig. 2). Hospitals were eligible for inclusion if they were geographically and administratively distinct from each other, had between 1,000 and 5,000 vaginal births per year, and were able to provide comprehensive obstetrical care with the ability to perform surgery for PPH. Hospitals were excluded if they had already implemented a treatment bundle for PPH. Written permission was granted by each participating hospital for clinical staff to extract anonymized clinical-outcome data for each vaginal birth.

Intervention

The E-MOTIVE intervention consisted of a blood-collection drape, with calibrated lines to measure blood-loss volume, for early detection of PPH and the WHO-proposed first-response treatment bundle, which included uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, TXA, IV fluids and a process for examination and escalation (Fig. 1). Detailed information on the E-MOTIVE intervention is published elsewhere¹⁴.

In usual care, blood loss was estimated visually, with healthcare providers relying on their perceptions to subjectively assess the volume of blood lost. First-response treatment for PPH typically consisted of some or all of the components of the WHO-proposed first-response bundle. These were typically administered sequentially, with oxytocic drugs given as first-line treatment and TXA reserved for refractory bleeding. Established dosage regimens for usual care were applied, consistent with the E-MOTIVE group (Fig. 1).

Noncalibrated drapes, without warning or action lines, were used in the usual-care group hospitals to quantify blood loss for the purpose of the trial.

Effectiveness outcomes

We estimated cost-effectiveness based on outcomes of severe PPH prevented and DALYs averted.

Severe PPH prevented. Severe PPH, defined as blood loss of at least 1,000 ml, was measured at 1 h and, if there was continued bleeding, for up to 2 h postpartum. Blood loss was objectively measured with the use of a blood-collection drape. Calibrated drapes were used in the hospitals in the E-MOTIVE group to enable early and accurate diagnosis of PPH and to obtain data on blood loss. Noncalibrated drapes were used in the hospitals in the usual-care group to obtain data on blood loss. Data on blood loss were source-verified by capturing a photograph of the drape with collected blood inside it, on a digital weighing scale,

with the weight visible in the photograph. Only data that had been source-verified were used in the analysis.

This outcome differs from the primary outcome in the E-MOTIVE clinical analysis, which was a composite of severe PPH, laparotomy for bleeding or maternal death from bleeding. Given that composite outcomes are generally inadequate for economic evaluation due to varying component importance, disaggregation is recommended¹⁶. However, the infrequency of laparotomies and maternal deaths from bleeding in the trial limited a meaningful cost-effectiveness assessment based on these outcomes.

DALYs averted. The DALY is a composite summary measure of disease burden that accounts for both mortality and nonfatal health consequences and is the preferred metric for economic evaluations to support resource allocation decisions in LMICs¹⁷. DALYs were estimated on the basis of nonfatal PPH events and maternal death from bleeding for both arms of the trial.

For nonfatal PPH events, years lived with disability were estimated on the basis of the magnitude of the disability and its duration. Disability weights for severe PPH (0.324 ($\geq 1,000$ ml blood lost)) and less severe PPH (0.114 ($< 1,000$ ml blood lost)) were drawn from the Global Burden of Disease study¹⁸. The duration of disability due to PPH (both severe and less severe) was considered to last for a postpartum period of 6 weeks. Given that the trigger criterion of the E-MOTIVE intervention imposes a benefit on less-severe PPH, it was imperative to include disability for less-severe PPH to ensure relevant effects were captured.

Years of life lost for premature death due to bleeding were calculated using life expectancy of country-specific female populations drawn from Global Burden of Disease abridged life tables¹⁹. Years of life lost were calculated using a discount rate of 3%, as recommended for economic evaluations in global health¹⁷.

Resource use and costs

Resource use information was collected prospectively via electronic case report forms and recorded in REDCap (version 10.9.0–13.3.2). Information was collected from the perspective of the healthcare system for calibrated drapes, uterotonic drugs, TXA, IV fluids, duration of hospitalization, intensive care unit (ICU) admission, transfer to a higher-level facility, blood transfusions, postpartum laparotomy, hysterectomy, nonpneumatic anti-shock garments, uterine balloon tamponades and bimanual compression. When necessary, data from an observational study conducted alongside the E-MOTIVE trial and expert clinical opinion from within the research study team supplemented case report form information.

Extended Data Table 3 presents the unit costs used in the analysis. Calibrated blood-collection drape costs were obtained from Excellent Fixable Drapes in India, the manufacturer and supplier of the drapes used in the E-MOTIVE trial. We considered the price at which the drapes are currently being procured, 1.25 USD, in our base-case analysis. Costs of oxytocic drugs and TXA were obtained from a recent publication by the United States Agency for International Development Global Health Supply Chain Program²⁰. Uterotonic drug costs were sourced from the United Nations Populations Fund Product Catalogue, while the TXA costs reported were the United States Agency for International Development wholesale prices. We obtained costs of IV fluids from the International Medical Product Price Guide, a recommended source of medication costs in LMIC settings²¹. An adjustment of 25% was used to account for shipping and handling charges, as well as internal distribution of traded goods²².

Country-specific unit cost estimates for non-ICU hospitalization in secondary-level hospitals were obtained from the WHO-CHOICE initiative^{23,24}. Country-specific personnel costs were obtained from publicly available records regarding health sector pay, and personal communication with E-MOTIVE country trial management groups²⁵; costs from the latter were based on local government salaries. Conservative

estimates of the lowest-grade doctor who could attend a case of severe PPH were used. We used other secondary sources to estimate the cost of blood transfusions, additional treatment interventions, transfer to a higher-level facility and ICU admission^{4,26–30}.

Due to a lack of cost data for postpartum laparotomy, we assumed a unit cost equivalent to 80% of a hysterectomy, based on expert clinical opinion from within the E-MOTIVE study team. Furthermore, we estimated unit costs for bimanual compression based on personnel requirements and procedure duration, and for uterine balloon tamponades in Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania, we estimated costs considering materials and labor required for an improvised device. For the base case, we did not apply unit costs to activities perceived as a reprioritization of existing staff time, that is, uterine massage and examination, as we assumed no additional resource was required. Additional details on costing assumptions are provided in Extended Data Fig. 1.

To standardize unit costs across countries where data were unavailable, a market basket approach was used, wherein an index table based on WHO-CHOICE estimates (Extended Data Table 4) was used to indicate the relative mean cost of estimates for inpatient and outpatient health service delivery for each country pair in the study^{22–24}. The market basket approach is an established costing method for the development of a complete set of country-specific unit cost data in the economic evaluation of multinational trials²². All unit costs were adjusted to 2022 USD using average exchange rates and the average US inflation rate between the price base year used in individual studies and 2022, as recommended when there is a relatively high proportion of imported commodities in economic analyses³¹. Given the short follow-up period of the trial, costs were not discounted.

Statistical analysis

Main analysis. The economic evaluation comprised two main analyses: a CEA based on the outcome of cost per case of severe PPH prevented and a CUA based on the outcome of cost per DALY averted. Both were carried out on an intention-to-treat basis and relied on complete case analysis wherein cases without source-verified blood loss data were excluded.

Following recommendations for the economic evaluation of cluster and multinational trials^{32,33}, we used multilevel modeling to estimate the difference in mean costs and outcomes between the E-MOTIVE and usual-care groups. Multilevel modeling accounts for unobserved cluster-specific effects on costs and outcomes and facilitates the estimation of cost-effectiveness across the whole sample³⁴. Consistent with the clinical analysis, we fit generalized linear mixed models incorporating a constrained baseline analysis¹⁴. For severe PPH, we used the binomial family and logit link, in addition to robust standard errors, followed by marginal standardization to estimate risk difference. Differences in mean costs and DALYs were estimated using the Gaussian family and identity link, in combination with nonparametric permutation tests given the inherent skewness of such data³⁵. We included fixed effects for allocated exposure to E-MOTIVE, time period, country and covariates used in the randomization method (number of vaginal births per hospital, the proportion of patients with a clinical primary-outcome event at each hospital, and the quality of oxytocin at each hospital during the baseline phase). We adjusted for clustering using random cluster and cluster-by-period effects.

Model estimates of the difference in costs and outcomes were used to derive an incremental cost per case of severe PPH prevented and an incremental cost per DALY averted. For the CUA, we used two thresholds to judge the cost-effectiveness of the E-MOTIVE intervention (Extended Data Table 1): a weighted threshold based on the WHO recommended threshold for a 'highly cost-effective' intervention of the countries' per capita GDP and a weighted threshold based on recently advocated opportunity-cost based thresholds put forward by Woods and colleagues^{36–38}, equivalent to 51% GDP per capita for Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania, and 71% GDP per capita for South Africa.

Sensitivity analysis. We conducted sensitivity analyses to quantify the uncertainty relating to key assumptions and sampling variations. To characterize the inherent uncertainty around incremental cost-effectiveness estimates, we used nonparametric clustered bootstrapping with multilevel models to generate 1,000 paired estimates of incremental mean total costs and DALYs. These estimates were used to construct a cost-effectiveness acceptability curve that shows the probability that the E-MOTIVE intervention is cost-effective across a range of WTP threshold values per additional DALY averted³⁹. We also conducted deterministic sensitivity analyses on input parameters for the base-case analysis (Supplementary Information, p. 3). This included varying the device cost of the calibrated drapes to 1 USD, 0.75 USD and 0.50 per unit (2023 prices) respectively, considering potential price decreases with expanded production.

Given that only source-verified blood-loss data were used in the main analysis, we conducted a sensitivity analysis using multiple imputation to assess the effect of missing data. Missing data were imputed under the assumption that data were missing at random, with an allowance for clustering. The multiple imputation was performed using chained equations. Differences between the E-MOTIVE and usual-care groups in terms of risk of severe PPH, means costs and mean DALYs from the seven multiply imputed datasets were obtained using multilevel models in the same manner as the main analysis and pooled using Rubin's rules.

Country-level analysis. To provide indicative context for local decision-makers, we estimated the cost-effectiveness of the E-MOTIVE intervention from the perspective of each participating country using four fully pooled, one-country costing CUAs. Clinical outcome and utilization data from all participating countries were pooled, and country-specific unit costs and life-expectancy data were applied to all patients in the trial. The country-level analyses were adjusted analogously to the main analyses. Model estimates of differences in cost and DALYs were used to derive ICERs, which were judged against the country-specific thresholds reported in Extended Data Table 4. We extended these estimates to explore the potential budget impact of implementing the E-MOTIVE intervention (Supplementary Information, p. 7–11).

All analyses were carried out using Stata, version 17.1 (StataCorp).

Ethical approval

Ethical approval was granted by the University of Birmingham Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) ethics committee in the UK (ERN_19-1557); the World Health Organization – Human Reproduction Programme (WHO-HRP) (approval for formative phase) in Switzerland; the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) – University of Nairobi (UoN) Ethics and Research Committee (KNH-ERC/A/197), the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) (NACOSTI/P/21/8330), and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) in Kenya (PPB/ECCT/20/06/08/2020(122)); the National Health Research Ethics Committee of Nigeria (NHREC) (NHREC/01/01/2007) and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Nigeria (NAFDAC/DER/VCTD/E-MOTIVE/2022); the University of the Witwatersrand Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical) (M200241), the Eastern Cape Department of Health – Eastern Cape Health Research Committee (EC_202007_014), the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health – KZN Health Research Committee (KZ_202008_036) and the University of Cape Town – Human Research Ethics Committee in South Africa (091/2020); the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) – Senate Research and Publications Committee (DA.282/298/01.C/) and the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania (NIMR/HQ/R.8a/Vol. IX/3510). The trial was registered on ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT04341662) and the Pan African Clinical Trials Registry (PACTR202002791391791). All participants provided written informed consent before participation in intervention training.

Inclusion and ethics statement

Local researchers, including national principal investigators from each participating country, contributed to the E-MOTIVE study design. National principal investigators also led the implementation of the study in their respective countries, supported by a national team of local study coordinators and data managers. Additionally, local research midwives/nurses were also employed at each hospital to facilitate data collection and adherence to study protocols. Moreover, both national principal investigators and local study coordinators are acknowledged as authors of publications arising from the E-MOTIVE study.

This research is locally relevant to each of the participating countries as maternal mortality rates due to PPH are highest in sub-Saharan Africa. Co-design workshops were conducted in each country before implementing the E-MOTIVE intervention, which enabled key local stakeholders to contribute to discussions on adapting implementation strategies to local contexts.

Roles and responsibilities were agreed upon among collaborators ahead of the research. Capacity-building plans for local researchers focused on training research hub staff to conduct a large international, cluster-randomized trial, and on training local research midwives/nurses to facilitate implementation of the E-MOTIVE intervention during client care.

This research would not have been severely restricted or prohibited in the setting of the researchers and does not result in stigmatization, incrimination or discrimination to participants. There is a risk to participants (healthcare providers) if their personal data are not adequately protected. However, the study strictly adhered to applicable data protection regulations in each country, including de-identifying data collected from interviews and surveys before review and conducting on-site monitoring visits to ensure secure storage of participant data.

A central sponsor (University of Birmingham) level risk assessment was put in place during the setup phase of the study. Subsequently, within each country, a separate risk assessment was developed in collaboration with the national coordinating team and finalized before data collection commenced. A central and country-specific monitoring plan and data management plan were also put in place.

Lastly, local and regional research relevant to our study was taken into account in the write-up of this manuscript and the wider E-MOTIVE project.

Reporting summary

Further information on research design is available in the Nature Portfolio Reporting Summary linked to this article.

Data availability

Patient data cannot be made publicly available due to privacy concerns. The complete de-identified patient data that support the findings of this study can be obtained from the Chief Investigator of the E-MOTIVE trial, on approval from the E-MOTIVE Trial Data Analysis Sub-Committee. Approval from this committee can be requested by directly contacting the Chief Investigator (a.coomarasamy@bham.ac.uk), with an expected review period of approximately 2–3 months. After approval, researchers will be granted access to perform analyses, ensuring data security and confidentiality, with measures in place to prevent any breach of personal information. Additional data used for the analysis are publicly available and referenced in Methods and Supplementary Information. The parameter values and their sources are reported in Extended Data Table 3 and Supplementary Tables 6–9.

Code availability

Stata codes are available via GitHub at <https://github.com/ewbham/E-MOTIVE>.

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Author contributions

E.V.W., I.G., R.O., S.J.P. and T.E.R. were responsible for the economic analysis. E.V.W. did the economic analysis and received advice from I.G., R.O., S.J.P. and T.E.R. T.E.R. supervised the economic analysis. A.C., A.J.D., J.T.M., K.H., L.M., I.G., T.E.R. and I.D.G. contributed to the study design and methodology. H.G., F.A.-A., Z.Q., G.J.H., N.M. and S.F. were responsible for the oversight of the study in their respective countries, acting as principal investigators. L.E.B., K.-M.M., K.N.S., A.J.D. and I.D.G. were responsible for trial management and had oversight of data collection. J.T.M., K.H. and L.M. did the statistical analysis for clinical outcomes.

All authors contributed to data interpretation. E.V.W. wrote the first draft of the manuscript. All authors contributed to critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content and gave final approval.

Competing interests

G.J.H. has consulted for Equalize Health, a not-for-profit health technology company. This did not influence the design, conduct or reporting of the research presented in this manuscript. The other authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Tracy E. Roberts.

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Costing assumptions

Several simplifying assumptions were necessary to estimate unit costs in the analysis. These were based on expert clinical opinion from within the E-MOTIVE study team and findings from an observational study conducted alongside the trial. All assumptions were agreed prior to any analysis being undertaken.

- Staff time was only costed when additional labour was considered essential.
- For cases of severe PPH, it was assumed that a doctor would attend for 10 minutes. The lowest appropriate grade doctor who could attend was considered.
- To avoid zero costs, patients with a length of stay less than 24 hours were assigned the cost of a full day on the ward, which can be considered a proxy for the cost of delivery.
- Patients with an ICU length of stay less than 24 hours were assigned the cost of a full day in the ICU.
- The duration of bimanual compression was assumed to be 30 minutes.
- Two units of whole blood were assumed to be required for those who needed blood transfusions.
- The cost of a cannula and an IV giving set were applied to half of the women who had IV PPH treatment, given observational findings indicated that approximately 50% of patients had prior IV access.
- A one-off cost for syringes and needles for PPH treatment with oxytocin, TXA and ergometrine was applied.
- In the absence of robust costs for laparotomy across all countries, an assumed cost equivalent to 80% of a hysterectomy was applied.
- Uterine massage and examination of the genital tract were not assumed to bear an additional cost when delivered as part of the E-MOTIVE intervention. These aspects of the first-response treatment bundle were considered relevant to a reprioritisation of care and not additional care. It was expected to be delivered by the same attending midwife, so extra resources would not be required.
- The costs of the non-calibrated drapes used by the usual-care group in the E-MOTIVE trial were not considered by this analysis as they were used for research purposes.

The importance of key assumptions were explored using deterministic sensitivity analyses.

Extended Data Fig. 1 | Costing assumptions. Costing assumptions used for economic evaluation.

Extended Data Table 1 | Willingness-to-pay (USD) estimates for a disability-adjusted life-year averted in the participating countries

| Recommendation | Kenya | Nigeria | South Africa | Tanzania | Weighted mean |
|--|-------|---------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| WHO – per capita GDP | 2099 | 2184 | 6776 | 1192 | 2816 |
| Estimate based on Woods et al. (2016) | 1071 | 1114 | 4811 | 608 | 1690 |
| Weighted cost-effectiveness thresholds are based on the proportion of participants from each country out of trial sample size. GDP per data obtained from the World Bank data set. ²⁵ | | | | | |

Extended Data Table 2 | Country-level estimates of mean per-patient total costs (2022 USD), DALYs, and ICERs

| Country | E-MOTIVE | Usual Care | Adjusted Difference* (95% CIs**) | ICER (USD) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Kenya | | | | |
| Mean per-patient total cost (USD) | 14.86 (21.25) | 14.18 (23.58) | 1.08 (-0.68 to 2.75) | 402.51 |
| Mean per-patient DALYs | 0.00765 (0.39229) | 0.01157 (0.45407) | -0.00268 (-0.00817 to 0.00281) | |
| Nigeria | | | | |
| Mean per-patient total cost (USD) | 22.20 (26.11) | 21.97 (29.87) | 0.66 (-1.99 to 3.24) | 248.57 |
| Mean per-patient DALYs | 0.00747 (0.39351) | 0.01157 (0.45407) | -0.00265 (-0.00814 to 0.00283) | |
| South Africa | | | | |
| Mean per-patient total cost (USD) | 157.89 (198.30) | 168.99 (229.10) | -5.24 (-23.41 to 12.88) | Dominant*** |
| Mean per-patient DALYs | 0.00760 (0.38893) | 0.01148 (0.44881) | -0.00264 (-0.00806 to 0.00278) | |
| Tanzania | | | | |
| Mean per-patient total cost (USD) | 11.54 (15.95) | 10.56 (17.26) | 1.26 (-0.01 to 2.58) | 473.79 |
| Mean per-patient DALYs | 0.00767 (0.3931) | 0.01158 (0.45407) | -0.00266 (-0.00814 to 0.00284) | |
| Values are mean (SD). Adjusted differences in costs and DALYs were estimated by fully pooled, one-country costing analyses wherein, country-specific unit costs and life-expectancy data were applied to all patients, and clinical outcome and utilisation data from all participating countries were pooled. | | | | |
| *Adjusted for number of vaginal births per hospital, time period, country, the proportion of patients with a clinical primary-outcome event at each hospital, and the quality of oxytocin at each hospital during the baseline phase and for clustering using random cluster and cluster-by-period effects. | | | | |
| **Confidence intervals were constructed using non-parametric permutation tests, by finding the upper and lower boundaries of the intervention effect that would lead to a two-sided P value less than the 5% level (1000 replications). | | | | |
| *** Dominance is based on point estimates. | | | | |

Extended Data Table 3 | Unit Costs (2022 USD)

| Item | Kenya | Nigeria | South Africa | Tanzania | Sources | Other Information |
|--|------------|---------|--------------|----------|---|--|
| Calibrated blood-collection drape* | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | Personal communication with Excellent Fixable Drapes | Per unit. Price at which drape is procured (1.25 USD, 2023) used for device cost. |
| Oxytocin* | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | ⁵ | Per patient. Cost includes oxytocin for initial infusion 10IU (0.42 USD) and maintenance infusion 20IU (0.84 USD). |
| Tranexamic acid (TXA)* | 2.74 | 2.74 | 2.74 | 2.74 | ⁵ | Per 1g/10mL ampoule |
| Administration of TXA | 0.80 | 0.28 | - | 0.28 | Personal communication with country TMGs | Per procedure. Cost includes 10 minutes of midwife time for slow bolus injection. |
| Intravenous (IV) fluids* | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | ⁶ | Per 500mL. Cost per mL is used across volumes. |
| IV fluid giving set and cannula* | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | ⁷ | Per unit |
| Ergometrine* | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | ⁵ | Per 200 mcg/mL injection in 1mL ampoule |
| Misoprostol* | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | ⁵ | Per 800mcg (4 x 200mcg tablets) |
| Hysterectomy | 185.2 1 | 258.86 | 1339.49 | 138.91 | ^{8 9 10} | Per procedure |
| Laparotomy | 148.1 7 | 207.09 | 1071.59 | 111.13 | | Per procedure. Cost is 80% of postpartum hysterectomy cost |
| Non-pneumatic anti-shock garment (NASG)* | 1.27 | 1.17 | 1.54 | 1.17 | ⁷ | Per procedure, based on 72 uses of NASG. |
| Bimanual compression | 2.40 | 0.85 | 6.35 | 0.86 | ¹¹ Personal communication with country TMGs | Per procedure, Assumption: 30 minutes of midwife time |
| Uterine balloon tamponade (UBT)* | 1.19 | 0.93 | 6.90 | 0.93 | ^{7 12} | Per procedure. For Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania the cost includes the components of UBT device (condom, catheter and syringe) and 5 minutes of midwife time. For South Africa the cost includes Ellavi device. |
| Attending doctor for severe PPH | 1.54 | 0.79 | 4.27 | 0.72 | ¹¹ Personal communication with country TMGs | Per case of severe PPH. Cost is 10 minutes of doctor time |
| Non-ICU hospitalisation | 7.62 | 13.99 | 110.27 | 5.61 | ^{13,14} | Per day in hospital. Cost estimates represent the hotel component of hospital costs, i.e., excluding the cost of drugs and diagnostic tests. |
| ICU admission | 57.43 | 100.50 | 717.86 | 43.07 | ¹⁵ | Per day in ICU |
| Transfer to higher level facility | 19.35 | 34.25 | 54.74 | 14.51 | ^{8,10} | Per event |
| Blood transfusion | 95.64 | 40.08 | 288.55 | 71.73 | ⁹ | Per procedure. Cost assumes 2 units of whole blood were required for blood transfusions. |
| Needles and syringe* | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | ⁷ | Per unit |

*Tradable goods were adjusted for shipping, handling, and internal distribution (+25%).

Extended Data Table 4 | Relative cost indices of participating countries

| To country: | From country: | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| | Kenya | Nigeria | South Africa | Tanzania |
| Kenya | 1.00 | 0.57 | 0.08 | 1.34 |
| Nigeria | 1.77 | 1.00 | 0.14 | 2.37 |
| South Africa | 12.56 | 7.20 | 1.00 | 16.83 |
| Tanzania | 0.75 | 0.42 | 0.06 | 1.00 |

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| Data collection | REDCap version 10.9.0-13.3.2 |
| Data analysis | Stata version 17.1 |

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

Patient data cannot be made publicly available due to privacy concerns. The complete de-identified patient data that support the findings of this study can be obtained from the Chief Investigator of the E-MOTIVE trial, on approval from the E-MOTIVE Trial Data Analysis Sub-Committee. Approval from this committee can be requested by directly contacting the Chief Investigator (a.coomarasamy@bham.ac.uk), with an expected review period of approximately 2–3 months. After approval, researchers will be granted access to perform analyses, ensuring data security and confidentiality, with measures in place to prevent any breach of

personal information. Additional data used for the analysis are publicly available and referenced in the Methods and Supplementary Information. The parameter values and their sources are reported in Extended Data Table 2 and Supplementary Tables 6-9. Patient data cannot be made publicly available due to privacy concerns. The complete de-identified patient data that support the findings of this study can be obtained from the Chief Investigator of the E-MOTIVE trial, on approval from the E-MOTIVE Trial Data Analysis Sub-Committee. Approval from this committee can be requested by directly contacting the Chief Investigator (a.coomarasamy@bham.ac.uk), with an expected review period of approximately 2–3 months. After approval, researchers will be granted access to perform analyses, ensuring data security and confidentiality, with measures in place to prevent any breach of personal information. Additional data used for the analysis are publicly available and referenced in the Methods and Supplementary Information. The parameter values and their sources are reported in Extended Data Table 2 and Supplementary Tables 6-9. Stata codes are available at <https://github.com/ewbham/E-MOTIVE>

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

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| Reporting on sex and gender | Findings apply to females; study population was female patients having verified vaginal birth in the study facilities |
| Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings | Covariates regarding race, ethnicity or other socially relevant groupings were not collected or used at any stage in the analysis. |
| Population characteristics | Covariate-relevant characteristics (age, parity, past and current diagnosis) were collected as part of the clinical trial dataset but were not used in the present study. |
| Recruitment | Hospitals were eligible for inclusion if they were geographically and administratively distinct from each other, had between 1000 and 5000 vaginal births per year, and were able to provide comprehensive obstetrical care with the ability to perform surgery for PPH. Hospitals were excluded if they had already implemented a treatment bundle for PPH. Written permission was granted by each participating hospital for clinical staff to extract anonymised clinical-outcome data for each vaginal birth. |
| Ethics oversight | Ethical approval was granted by the University of Birmingham Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) ethics committee in the UK; the World Health Organization - Human Reproduction Programme (WHO-HRP) (approval for formative phase) in Switzerland; the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) - University of Nairobi (UoN) Ethics and Research Committee, the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), and the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB) in Kenya; the National Health Research Ethics Committee of Nigeria (NHREC) and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Nigeria; the University of the Witwatersrand Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical), the Eastern Cape Department of Health - Eastern Cape Health Research Committee, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health - KZN Health Research Committee, and the University of Cape Town - Human Research Ethics Committee in South Africa; the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) - Senate Research and Publications Committee, and the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania. |

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences ☒ Behavioural & social sciences ☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

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| Study description | A trial-based cost-effectiveness analysis to determine whether the E-MOTIVE intervention, which included a calibrated blood-collection drape for early detection of PPH and a bundle of first-response treatments (uterine massage, oxytocic drugs, tranexamic acid, intravenous fluids, examination, and escalation), was cost-effective compared with usual care. |
| Research sample | Females of reproductive age in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania who gave birth in secondary level hospitals included in the E-MOTIVE clinical trial. The 78 hospitals (14 in Kenya, 38 in Nigeria, 14 in South Africa, and 12 in Tanzania) included in the cluster randomised trial were representative of the target population. Median age in both arms was similar 26 (21–31) in the intervention group and 26 (21–30) in the usual care group. The present analysis was designed as an economic evaluation of the E-MOTIVE trial. Detail on justification for the trial's research sample can be found in the clinical paper. |
| Sampling strategy | Cluster-randomised trial. The sample size calculation was made based on the assumption that there were 80 health facilities in the trial, evenly split across the intervention and control groups, with an average number of 192 births per health facility per month. The anticipated total sample size for the study (running for 14 months) would be 215,040 (=8019214). The number of health facilities (80) was inflated by 10% to allow for dropout from the number of health facilities required (72). Calculations on expected levels of power indicated that the study would have at least 90% power at 5% significance (two-sided) to detect a 30% RRR for most scenarios after allowing for clustering and for varying cluster size. The study would have over 90% power to detect smaller RRR if the ICC is close to |

the lower bound (0.001), the CAC is at the upper bound (1.0), or the prevalence of the study is relatively large (4.0%).

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| Data collection | Data on blood loss were source-verified by capturing a photograph of a blood-collection drape with collected blood inside it, positioned on a digital weighing scale, with the weight visible in the photograph. Clinical trial data were collected using case report forms. Blinding was not possible given the nature of the intervention and cluster trial design. |
| Timing | Between August and October 2021, participating hospitals entered a 7-month baseline period. After this 7-month baseline period, hospitals were randomly assigned in a sequential manner as they approached the end of their assigned baseline phase either to continue providing usual care or to receive the trial intervention for 7 months, with an allowance of 2 months for transition period. |
| Data exclusions | Patients with missing verified blood loss data were excluded from the primary economic analysis (1704 in the intervention group and 1972 in the usual care group) - 2% of patients. Their data are reflected in the sensitivity analysis using multiple imputation |
| Non-participation | Two hospitals, 1 in each trial group, did not receive the assigned intervention because of participation in a conflicting program and were not included in the analyses. |
| Randomization | Cluster-randomised trial. Randomisation was implemented using a minimisation algorithm to ensure a balance of the intervention and control facilities for the following (measured at the cluster-level during the first 5 months of the baseline phase): 1. Number of vaginal births 2. Proportion of births with the composite primary outcome (before randomisation) 3. Oxytocin quality 4. Number of intervention and control clusters in each country. Hospitals were randomised in a 1:1 ratio. |

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| n/a | Involved in the study |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical data |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants |

Methods

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| n/a | Involved in the study |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging |

Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

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| Clinical trial registration | Trial registration number: NCT04341662 |
| Study protocol | The trial protocol can be accessed at https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/bctu/trials/womens/emotive/e-motive |
| Data collection | Data were collected at secondary-level hospitals in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. Data collection began between August and October 2021 and lasted for 16 months. |
| Outcomes | Severe PPH, Costs and DALYs are equivalent to the primary outcomes. Severe PPH (blood loss \geq 1000ml) (source-verified by capturing a photograph of a blood-collection drape with collected blood inside it, positioned on a digital weighing scale, with the weight visible in the photograph) was the primary clinical outcome used in the economic analysis. Costs and disability-adjusted life-years were derived from resource use outcomes (i.e. duration of hospitalisation, use of tranexamic acid, blood transfusions) and clinical outcomes (death from bleeding, PPH, severe PPH) within the dataset. This study did not include secondary outcomes. |

Seed stocks

Report on the source of all seed stocks or other plant material used. If applicable, state the seed stock centre and catalogue number. If plant specimens were collected from the field, describe the collection location, date and sampling procedures.

Novel plant genotypes

Describe the methods by which all novel plant genotypes were produced. This includes those generated by transgenic approaches, gene editing, chemical/radiation-based mutagenesis and hybridization. For transgenic lines, describe the transformation method, the number of independent lines analyzed and the generation upon which experiments were performed. For gene-edited lines, describe the editor used, the endogenous sequence targeted for editing, the targeting guide RNA sequence (if applicable) and how the editor was applied.

Authentication

Describe any authentication procedures for each seed stock used or novel genotype generated. Describe any experiments used to assess the effect of a mutation and, where applicable, how potential secondary effects (e.g. second site T-DNA insertions, mosaicism, off-target gene editing) were examined.