

GENERAL RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS)

PAS is defined as the stress reaction experienced after having an abortion. PAS is a sub-category of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Symptoms of PAS may include any of the following: guilt, anxiety, numbness, depression, flashbacks, and suicidal thoughts.

Additional Side Effects

A study of American women who had experienced one or more abortions indicated the following reactions were found to be associated with abortion.

Feelings of Sadness or Loss: **55.8%**
Fears concerning future pregnancies: **36.9%**
Nightmares: **30%**
Withdrawal from family and friends: **30%**
Need help to deal with the loss: **29%**
Increase in alcohol or drug use: **26.7%**
Difficulty controlling anger: **24%**
Difficulty sleeping: **23%**
Relationship ended with partner: **19.8%**

RESEARCH

Glover V Fisk, NM "Fetal Pain: Implication for Research and Practice"

Lanfranchi, Gentles, and Ring-Cassidy "Abortion's Impact on Women" 1st ed. Biology and epidemiology confirm the abortion-breast cancer link; p. 109-142

Rue, Coleman, Rue, and Reardon "Induced Abortion and Traumatic Stress" <https://medscimonit.com/download/index/idArt/11784>

Babbel "Post Abortion Stress Syndrome (PASS) - Does It Exist?" <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/somatic-psychology/201010/post-abortion-stress-syndrome-pass-does-it-exist>

Anderson "Abortion and the Risk of Breast Cancer: Information for the Adolescent Woman and Her Parents" <https://acpeds.org/position-statements/reproductive-choices-of-young-women-affecting-future-breast-cancer-risk>

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/mifeprex-mifepristone-information>

https://www.babycenter.com/pregnancy/your-baby/fetal-development-week-by-week_10406730

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet is designed to be an informational tool only. It is not intended to provide medical advice or replace care from a qualified medical practitioner.

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YOUR OPTIONS

ABORTION

The Best Decision is
an Informed Decision

WITHIN 10 WEEKS AFTER LMP*

The Abortion Pill

PROCEDURE FDA approved regimen is a two-visit process involving two different drugs:

Mifeprex is given orally during an office visit. Mifeprex blocks progesterone, interrupting pregnancy development prompting detachment of implanted embryo.

Misoprostol is taken at home 24-48 hours later. Misoprostol induces contractions to empty the uterus. A follow-up appointment is done to ensure the abortion is complete.

WARNING: The FDA has approved Mifeprex for use only up to 70 days (10 weeks) from LMP. Deviations from the approved regimen increase the risk of harmful complications.

Do not buy Mifeprex over the Internet because you will bypass important safeguards designed to protect your health. Mifeprex has special safety restrictions on how it is distributed to the public. Also, drugs purchased from foreign Internet sources are not FDA approved and are not subject to FDA manufacturing controls or quality inspections.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

- 8-10% failure of pills, requiring a surgical abortion to complete the termination.
- Hemorrhaging (failure to stop bleeding), cramping, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, infection.
- Not advised for women with anemia, bleeding disorders, liver or kidney disease, seizure disorder, acute inflammatory bowel disease, or have an IUD

FETAL DEVELOPMENT LMP-10W

- Heart begins to beat
- Brain, spinal cord, and nerves develop
- Face takes shape with eyes, nose, ears & upper lip
- All limbs form with bones along with fingers & toes
- Internal reproductive organs are forming
- Brain connections are forming
- Movement begins

*LMP - LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD

6-16 WEEKS 6 DAYS AFTER LMP

Vacuum Aspiration or Suction Curettage

PROCEDURE

- The patient will lie on her back with feet in stirrups and a speculum is inserted to open the vagina.
- A local anesthetic is administered to the cervix. Most women feel some pain like strong menstrual cramps during the procedure. A tenaculum (a slender, sharply pointed hook attached to a handle used for clamping and seizing tissue in surgeries) is used to hold the cervix in place to be dilated. The cervix is opened by putting in and taking out metal rods that will open the cervix the exact amount needed.
- When the cervix is open enough, a cannula (long plastic tube) connected to a suction machine is inserted into the uterus to suction out the fetus and placenta.
- The procedure usually lasts 10-15 minutes but may require staying at the clinic for a few hours to observe for complications.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

- Cramping, nausea, feeling faint, scarring of uterus lining.
- Less frequent side effects are: hemorrhaging, blood clots, damage to cervix, perforation (poking a hole) through the uterus.
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease caused by an untreated STD or bacteria introduced into the uterus. May be asymptomatic or can cause fever, pain, abdominal tenderness, and infertility.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT 10W-16W6D

- Profile well defined
- Eyes are open
- Fingerprint ridges start forming
- Fingernails and irises in the eyes develop
- External genitalia are forming
- Kidneys produce urine and teeth are forming

“80% of miscarriages happen in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.”

17-20 WEEKS 6 DAYS AFTER LMP

Dilation & Evacuation (D&E)

PROCEDURE

- Often, 24 hours prior to the procedure, the abortion provider will insert laminaria or synthetic dilator inside the patient's cervix.
- Cone-shaped rods, increasing in size, are used to dilate the cervix.
- A cannula is inserted to begin removing tissue away from the lining. Then a curette may be used to scrape out any residual tissue.
- Forceps are used to remove larger tissue.
- Procedure usually lasts approximately 30 minutes.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

- Nausea, bleeding, cramping, and dizziness may occur for two weeks following the procedure.
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease caused by an untreated STD or bacteria introduced into the uterus. May be asymptomatic or can cause fever, pain, abdominal tenderness, and infertility.
- Infection due to remaining tissues in the uterus.
- Additional risks include: damage to uterine lining or cervix, perforation (poking a hole) of the uterus, blood clots, and sepsis (infection entering blood).

FETAL DEVELOPMENT 17W-20W6D

- Swallowing and sucking
- Joints are developed and flutters turn into kicks and jabs
- Eyebrows and lips fully formed
- Senses are developing such as smell, vision, touch/pain, taste, and hearing (including hearing your voice)
- You begin to feel movement

“GIVEN THE ANATOMICAL EVIDENCE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FETUS CAN FEEL PAIN FROM 20 WEEKS AND IS CAUSED DISTRESS BY INTERVENTIONS FROM AS EARLY AS 15 OR 16 WEEKS