

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).⁵ 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:⁴

- 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 a partner: 19.8%

For more information and resources, visit "Support After Abortion" at supportafterabortion.com.

Several studies have shown abortion increases a woman's risk of having a premature delivery in future births. These studies have also shown a link between induced abortion and an increased risk of breast cancer.^{3, 6}

RESEARCH

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration "Mifeprex Medication Guide"
2. HexaHealth.com "Abortion in the Third Trimester - Why It is a Rare Decision?"
3. Lanfranchi, Gentles, and Ring-Cassidy "Abortion's Impact on Women" 1st ed. Biology and epidemiology confirm the abortion-breast cancer link; p. 109-142
4. Rue, Coleman, Rue, and Reardon "Induced Abortion and Traumatic Stress"
5. Babbel "Post Abortion Stress Syndrome (PASS) - Does It Exist?"
6. Anderson, Field "Reproductive Choices of Young Women Affecting Future Breast Cancer Risk"
7. MedicalNewsToday "Miscarriage rates by week: Risks and statistics"



Revised on 8/15/2024
For the most up-to-date
information, scan the QR code.

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.



Assure
WOMEN'S CENTER

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YOUR OPTIONS

ABORTION

The Best Decision is
an Informed Decision

WITHIN 10 WEEKS AFTER LMP*

ABORTION PILL

*Not Available in NE after 11 wks
*Not Available in IA after 6 wks

Mifeprex is taken first. Mifeprex blocks progesterone, interrupting pregnancy development prompting detachment of implanted embryo.

Misoprostol is taken up to 48 hours later. Misoprostol induces contractions to empty the uterus. A follow-up appointment may be scheduled to ensure the abortion is complete.

WARNING: The FDA has approved Mifeprex for use 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 the FDA approved version and are not subject to FDA manufacturing controls or qualify inspections.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

- Some women may require a surgical abortion to complete the process. The percentage of this occurring increases with gestational age.
- 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, who have an IUD, or are unable to return for the next visit.

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 and fingers & toes
- Internal reproductive organs are forming
- Brain connections are forming
- Movement begins

6 - 16 WEEKS 6 DAYS AFTER LMP

SUCTION CURETTAGE

*Not Available in NE after 12 wks
*Not Available in IA after 6 wks

- The patient will lie on her back with feet in stirrups and a speculum is inserted to open the vagina.
- The health care provider will use a speculum to separate the walls of the vagina in order to get a good view of the cervix, and will then inject a numbing medication into the cervix. Most women feel some pain like strong menstrual cramps during the procedure. The cervix is opened by placing dilators 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 is caused by an untreated STD or bacteria introduced into the uterus. May be asymptomatic or can cause fever, pain, abdominal tenderness, and possible infertility.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT 11W-16W6D

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

17 - 20 WEEKS 6 DAYS AFTER LMP

DILATION & EVACUATION (D&E)

*Not Available in NE
*Not Available in IA

- Often, 24 hours prior to the procedure, the abortion provider will insert a 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.
- If necessary, 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 is caused by an untreated STD or bacteria introduced into the uterus. May be asymptomatic or can cause fever, pain, abdominal tenderness, and possible infertility.
- Infection due to remaining tissues in the uterus.
- Although rare, additional risks include: damage to uterine lining or cervix, perforation (poking a hole) through the uterus, blood clots, and sepsis (infections entering blood).

FETAL DEVELOPMENT 17W-20W6D

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

* LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD

"80% of all miscarriages happen in the first trimester of pregnancy." ⁷

"SINCE ABORTION IN THE LATER STAGE CAN POSE MORE RISK TO THE MOTHER'S LIFE, CONSULTING WITH AN EXPERT BEFORE MAKING A DECISION IS HIGHLY CRITICAL." ²