

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 a partner: 19.8%

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.

SOURCES

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

<https://www.fda.gov/media/72923/download>

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/induced-abortion>

ABORTION PROCEDURES

<https://www.abortionprocedures.com/induction/>

HEALTHGRADES

<https://www.healthgrades.com/right-care/pregnancy/miscarriage-rates-by-week>

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1060338/>

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

<https://www.cdc.gov/std/pid/stdfact-pid.htm>

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/SenateMedicalAffairsCommittee/Shuping%20Long-lasting%20Distress%20after%20Abortion.pdf>

POST ABORTION STRESS SYNDROME

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/somatic-psychology/201010/post-abortion-stress-syndrome-pass-does-it-exist>

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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ABORTION

YOUR OPTIONS

THE BEST DECISION
IS AN INFORMED
DECISION



WITHIN 10 WEEKS OF LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD

Abortion Pill

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

MISOPROSTOL is taken up to 48 hours later.

Misoprostol induces contractions to empty the uterus. A follow-up appointment is recommended to ensure the abortion has gone to completion.

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 or Misoprostol 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 quality 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), severe cramping, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, chills, headache, dizziness, & infection.
- Not advised for women with anemia, bleeding disorders, liver or kidney disease, seizure disorder, acute inflammatory bowel disease, or who use an Intrauterine device (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

6-16 WEEKS, 6 DAYS AFTER LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD

Vacuum Aspiration OR Suction Curettage

"To start, a speculum is placed in the vagina to hold it open. A numbing medication may be given to help block sensation in the cervix. Then the cervix is usually dilated (opened) for the procedure. The cervix can be opened with medication or dilators (rods).

A thin, plastic tube is inserted through the cervix and into the uterus. The tube is then attached to a suction or vacuum pump, which removes the pregnancy. An instrument called a curette can also be used to remove the pregnancy.

When a suction or vacuum pump is used to remove the pregnancy, it is called vacuum aspiration or suction curettage. When a curette is used, the procedure is called a dilation and curettage (D&C). Sometimes the term D&C is used in both situations.

Your healthcare professional should take steps to ensure you are comfortable during the procedure. Pain medication may be recommended but is not always necessary. Antibiotics may be given to help prevent infection."

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS

- Cramping, nausea, feeling faint, scarring of the uterus lining.
- Less frequent side effects: hemorrhaging, blood clots, damage to the cervix, and perforation of the uterus.
- Pelvic inflammatory disease caused by an untreated STD or bacteria introduced into the uterus. It 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
- Teeth are forming

17-20 WEEKS, 6 DAYS AFTER LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD

Dilation & Evacuation (D&E)

*Not available in every state

- Often, 24 hours prior to the procedure, the abortion provider will insert laminaria or a 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 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 the uterine lining or cervix, perforation (poking a hole) of the uterus, blood clots, and sepsis (infections entering blood).

FETAL DEVELOPMENT 17W-20W6D

- Swallowing and sucking
- Joints are developed
- You begin to feel movement - 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)

THE BEST DECISION IS AN INFORMED DECISION

80% OF ALL MISCARRIAGES HAPPEN IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER

