

GENERAL RISK AND SIDE EFFECTS

POST-ABORTION STRESS SYNDROME(PASS) (4)

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

ADDITIONAL SIDE EFFECTS (5)

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%
- Fear concerning future pregnancy: 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. (6)

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>

MAYO CLINIC

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/medical-abortion/about/pac-20394687>

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY(4)

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

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE(5)

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

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE (6)

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

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/in-clinic-abortion-procedures>

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION

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

HEALTHGRADES

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

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 (LMP)

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.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Heavy and prolonged bleeding
- Heavy and prolonged cramping
- Large blood clots the size of lemons
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- Fever, Chills, Headache, Dizziness

RISK AND SIDE EFFECTS

- Incomplete abortion, which may need to be followed by surgical abortion
- An ongoing pregnancy if medication doesn't work
- Infection
- Hemorrhaging (failure to stop bleeding)
- Allergic Reaction

DO NOT TAKE IF YOU:

- Are past 10 weeks from last period
- Use an IUD
- Have an ectopic pregnancy
- Are miscarrying
- Have a medical condition: anemia, bleeding disorders; liver, kidney or lung disease; seizures disorder; acute inflammatory bowel disease
- Take a blood thinner or certain steroid medicines
- Are breastfeeding
- Can't make a follow-up to your provider or access to emergency care

Do not buy the abortion pill

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.

THE BEST DECISION IS AN INFORMED DECISION

6-16 weeks, 6 days after Last Menstrual Period

Vacuum Aspiration or Suction Curettage

According to ACOG.org this procedure is as follows;

- 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 dilated (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.
- Your healthcare professional should take steps to ensure you are comfortable during the procedure.
- Antibiotics may be given to help prevent infection.

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.

17-20 weeks, 6 days after Last Menstrual Period

Dilation & Evacuation (D&E)

- Prior to the procedure, dilation of cervix may include using medication or dilators.
- During procedure, dilators will be removed. A suction device and instruments will be inserted into the uterus to remove the pregnancy.
- Your healthcare professional should take steps to ensure you are comfortable during the procedure.
- Antibiotics may be given to help prevent infection.

RISK AND SIDE EFFECTS FOR BOTH PROCEDURES

- Nausea, Bleeding, Cramping, and Dizziness.
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease caused by an untreated STD or bacteria introduced into the uterus.
- Fever, Pain, and Abdominal Tenderness.
- 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, hemorrhaging, possible infertility, and sepsis (infections entering blood).