

PROTECT YOUR FUTURE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

FUTURE PRE-TERM DELIVERIES

- Complications associated with an abortion can make it more difficult to become pregnant in the future or carry a pregnancy to term.¹⁸
- Some research suggests a possible link between abortion and an increased risk of: vaginal bleeding during early pregnancy, preterm birth, low birth weight, placenta problems.¹⁹

STDs & PELVIC INFLAMMATORY DISEASE

- PID can often be caused by gonorrhea or chlamydia infections. These bacteria may enter your reproductive tract anytime the normal barrier created by the cervix is disturbed. This can happen after intrauterine device (IUD) insertion, childbirth, miscarriage, or abortion.²⁰
- If women seeking termination of pregnancy with an active STI are not treated, 10-60% will develop PID after an abortion.²¹

MENTAL HEALTH

One woman's emotional reaction to an abortion may be different from another's. One may feel relief, another may feel sad, and some may feel a sense of emptiness and guilt. Some women find those feelings go away with time, others find them more difficult to overcome. Negative feelings can last longer in a woman who has not had to make major life decisions or who has emotional or mental health problems.²²

BREAST CANCER ²³

Medical experts continue to debate the link between abortion and breast cancer. Research* shows:

- Carrying a pregnancy to full term gives a measure of protection against breast cancer, especially in a woman's first pregnancy. Terminating a pregnancy results in loss of that protection.
- The hormones of pregnancy cause breast tissue to grow rapidly in the first 3 months. But it is not until after 32 weeks LMP that breasts mature enough to produce milk and become more cancer resistant. That's why a premature birth or termination before 32 weeks LMP significantly increases a woman's risk of breast cancer.
- The majority of world wide studies report a positive association (increased risk) between induced abortion and later development of breast cancer.

*Citations for medical journals & medical institutes for research found in endnote number 23

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4. I See <http://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/youre-pregnant-now-what/stages-pregnancy>
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23. CareNet 2016. Before You Decide Brochure. Page 21



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WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE



ABORTION INFORMATION INCLUDES

- Abortion Procedures & Side Effects
- Reproductive & Other Health Risks
- Fetal Development

In a sample of American women:

- 84% said they did not receive adequate counseling before making the decision to have an abortion.
- 64% felt pressured by others.¹

WITHIN 10 WEEKS OF LMP*

RU-486 (MIFEPRISTONE AND MISOPROSTOL)

COST: UP TO \$800

The FDA has approved the Mifeprex® (Abortion Pill) regimen for up to 70 days from LMP for medical abortion.²

- Day 1 at the Provider's Office: Patient is given Mifeprex tablets to swallow which causes the death of the fetus. Additional visits will be up to the Provider's discretion.
- 24-48 hours later: Misoprostol tablets are taken which causes cramping and expels the fetus. Beyond 8 weeks gestation, the expelled fetus may be seen.^{2,3}
- Follow up at Provider's Office occurs 1-2 weeks after taking the initial pill: Patient's Provider will check whether the baby has died and been expelled from the uterus. If not and still pregnant, the Provider will discuss the need for a surgical abortion.

RISKS & SIDE EFFECTS²

- FDA bordered box warning: "Warning: Serious and sometimes fatal infections and bleeding."
- Painful cramping
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Heavy bleeding and uterine blood clots
- Allergic reaction to the medications
- Infection and fever
- Incomplete abortion

Signs that require emergency care include heavy bleeding, severe abdominal pain, or fever.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT (WEEKS 6-10)³

- Nerves, brain and spinal cord begin to develop
- Heart is beating at 6 weeks and can be seen on ultrasound
- Eyes, ears, arms, and legs begin to form
- Muscles and bones begin to develop
- Lungs, stomach, liver, and intestines begin to form

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet is designed as an informational tool only. It is not intended to replace the medical advice or care from your primary medical practitioner who knows and understands your health history best. Please discuss your medical concerns with your doctor.

WITHIN 13 WEEKS OF LMP* SUCTION ASPIRATION OR DILATION & CURETTAGE (D&C)

COST: UP TO \$800

- 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.⁸
- Then the cervix is 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 fetus.
- An instrument called a curette can also be used to remove the fetus or scrape the lining of the uterus to remove remaining tissue.⁹
- Pain medication may be recommended but is not always given.

RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS¹²

- Cramping or pain
- Heavy bleeding and intrauterine blood clots
- Damage to the cervix and perforation of the uterus
- Pelvic infection
- Incomplete abortion: if the abortion is incomplete, a follow-up procedure may be needed. This is more likely to happen with chemical abortions.
- Anesthesia related complications

FETAL DEVELOPMENT (WEEKS 8-12)³

- Heart has 4 chambers
- Nervous system becoming more responsive
- Muscles and bones are developing
- Eyes, ears, arms and legs are identifiable
- Teeth buds for future teeth appear
- Fingers and toes are forming with soft nails (baby has the beginning ridges of finger prints)
- Baby begins body movements
- Fetal heartbeat may be heard with a heart doppler monitor

**Last Menstrual Period, Cost ranges per provider's geographical area*

***Most abortions are prohibited in GA when a fetal heartbeat is detected*

14 TO 26 WEEKS AFTER LMP*

DILATION & EVACUATION (D&E)

COST \$1200-\$2100

- Dilation and evacuation is a second-trimester surgical abortion that takes place after 13 weeks of pregnancy.
- D&E can usually be done as outpatient surgery,¹² meaning that you can go home the same day. You may need to visit your healthcare provider the day before to take medications or start having your cervix dilated.
- Your cervix is dilated with dilators, laminaria, or medication. Anesthesia may be used for pain relief.
- The fetus is removed through the vagina. Suction via a cannula is used to remove any remaining tissue.¹³
- After surgical methods of abortion, fetal remains are usually examined to ensure everything was removed and that the abortion was complete.¹⁴

RISKS & SIDE EFFECTS¹⁵

- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Soreness (pain) or cramping may occur for 1 or 2 days after the procedure.
- Bleeding may last up to 2 weeks.
- Incomplete abortion: if the abortion is incomplete, a follow-up procedure may be needed.
- Infection and fever
- Heavy bleeding
- Injury to the uterus, cervix, and other organs. The risk increases with the length of the pregnancy.

FETAL DEVELOPMENT (WEEKS 13-22)³

- Baby swallows, can suck thumb, kidneys make urine
- External genitals have developed and sex identified
- Limb movements more coordinated; can grasp
- Skin begins to form
- Facial expressions possible; as baby can move mouth and blink
- All organs/structures formed and continue to grow
- Respiratory movements occur
- Baby sleeps and wakes regularly
- Baby feels pain by 20 weeks from LMP