

Induced Abortion

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Induced Abortion

Introduction

- 40 to 60 millions abortions annually worldwide.
- 20 millions estimated unsafe and 95% of these occurred in developing countries.
- 80,000 women die each year.
- complications of Unsafe Abortion, one leading cause of maternal mortality = 13% of 600,000 maternal death each year.

Induced Abortion

Definitions

- Induced abortion: termination of a pregnancy
 - to preserve health = therapeutic abortion
 - for any reasons = elective abortion
- Spontaneous abortion = miscarriage
- Legal abortion
- Illegal abortion = criminal abortion

Procedures

Abortion by instrumental evacuation

- 4 to 6 weeks: Dilation & Aspiration or Curettage
- 7 to 12 weeks: D & C after Dilation by laminaria or dilators
- 12 to 18 weeks: D & Evacuation

Abortion by medical induction

- < to 9 weeks: Mifepristone (RU 486), 200 to 600 µg per os followed by Misoprostil 400 µg per os or 800 µg intravaginally is about 95% effective
- after 15 weeks: Dinoprost E2 (vaginal) and Misoprostol

Attention: Adverse effects of prostaglandins, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Other Methods

- Herbs in folk medicine can cause serious even lethal side effects, such as multiple organs failure.
- Using trauma to the abdomen, such as forceful abdominal massage.
- Reported methods of unsafe, by self – induced abortion include misuse of mifegyne, misoprostol (Ya Chine).

Complications

Serious complications

- perforation of uterus : 0.1%
- major hemorrhage : 0.06%
- laceration of uterus : 0.1 – 1%

Most common delayed complications

- bleeding, retained placenta
- infection, peritonitis or sepsis
- sterility from synechiae , tubal fibrosis, incompetent cervix
- psychological trauma may occur in women who had previous psychological symptoms

INCIDENCE AND RATES**Global and regional estimates of induced abortion, 1995 and 2003**

Region and Subregion	No. of abortions (millions)		Abortion rate*	
	1995	2003	1995	2003
World	45.6	41.6	35	29
Developed countries	10.0	6.6	39	26
Excluding Eastern Europe	3.8	3.5	20	19
Developing countries†	35.5	35.0	34	29
Excluding China	24.9	26.4	33	30
Estimates by region				
Africa	5.0	5.6	33	29
Asia	26.8	25.9	33	29
Europe	7.7	4.3	48	28
Latin America	4.2	4.1	37	31
Northern America	1.5	1.5	22	21
Oceania	0.1	0.1	21	17

*Abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44

†Those within Africa, the Americas, excluding Canada and the United States of America, Asia, excluding Japan, and Oceania, excluding Australia and New Zealand

Incidence and Trends

- Dramatic decline in abortion incidence in Eastern Europe where abortion is, for the most part legal : rate fell 90 to 44.
- Lowest abortion rate in the world is Western Europe (12/1000 women aged 15-44).
- Most abortions occur in Asia where most of the world's population is concentrated (26 million yearly and 9 million of these take place in China).

Prohibited altogether or to save the woman's life**THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Antigua & Barbuda, Brazil (R), Chile (ND), Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador (ND), Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico* (F/R), Nicaragua (ND), Panama (F/R/PA), Paraguay, Suriname, Venezuela

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran (F), Iraq, Lebanon, Libya (PA), Oman, Syria (PA/SA), United Arab Emirates (PA/SA), West Bank & Gaza Strip, Yemen

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangladesh, Bhutan (I/R/X), Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Kiribati, Laos, Marshall Islands (U), Micronesia (U), Myanmar, Palau (U), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Tuvalu

EUROPE

Andorra, Ireland, Malta, Monaco, San Marino

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola, Central African Rep., Congo (Brazzaville), Côte d'Ivoire, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi (SA), Mali (I/R), Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan (R), Tanzania, Uganda

Physical health**THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Argentina (RM), Bahamas, Bolivia (I/R), Costa Rica, Ecuador (RM), Grenada, Peru, Uruguay (R)

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Jordan, Kuwait (F/PA/SA), Morocco (SA), Qatar (F), Saudi Arabia (PA/SA)

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Maldives (SA), Pakistan, Rep. of Korea (F/I/R/SA), Vanuatu

EUROPE

Liechtenstein (X), Poland (F/I/R/PA)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Benin (F/I/R), Burkina Faso (F/I/R), Burundi, Cameroon (R), Chad (F), Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea (PA/SA), Eritrea (I/R), Ethiopia (F/I/R/X), Guinea (F/I/R), Mozambique, Niger (F), Rwanda, Togo (F/I/R), Zimbabwe (F/I/R)

Physical and mental health**THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Colombia (F/I/R), Jamaica (PA), Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia (I/R), Trinidad & Tobago

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Algeria, Israel (F/I/R/X)

Physical and mental health (cont'd.)**EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Hong Kong (F/I/R), Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand (F/I), Samoa, Thailand (F/R)

EUROPE

Northern Ireland, Spain (F/R)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Botswana (F/I/R), Gambia, Ghana (F/I/R), Liberia (F/I/R), Namibia (F/I/R), Seychelles (F/I/R), Sierra Leone, Swaziland (F/I/R)

Physical and mental health, and socioeconomic grounds**THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Barbados (F/I/R/PA), Belize (F), Saint Vincent & Grenadines (F/I/R)

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Australia*, Fiji, India (F/R/PA), Japan (SA), Taiwan (F/I/PA/SA)

EUROPE

Cyprus (F/R), Finland (F/R/X), Iceland (F/I/R/X), Luxembourg (F/R/PA), Great Britain (F)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Zambia (F)

Without restriction as to reason**THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Canada (L), Cuba§ (PA), Guyana†, Puerto Rico*†, United States*, †† (PA)

CENTRAL ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Armenia§, Azerbaijan§, Bahrain§, Georgia§ (PA), Kazakhstan§, Kyrgyzstan§, Tajikistan§, Tunisia§, Turkey‡ (PA/SA), Turkmenistan§, Uzbekistan§

EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cambodia**, China (SS/L), Dem. People's Rep. of Korea (L), Mongolia§, Nepal§ (SS), Singapore##, Vietnam (L)

EUROPE

Albania§, Austria**, Belarus§, Belgium**, Bosnia/Herzegovina§ (PA), Bulgaria§, Croatia§ (PA), Czech Rep.§ (PA), Denmark§ (PA), Estonia§, Fmr. Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia§ (PA), France**, Germany**, Greece§ (PA), Hungary§, Italy§§ (PA), Latvia§ (PA), Lithuania§, Moldova§, Montenegro§ (PA), Netherlands*†, Norway§ (PA), Portugal‡ (PA), Romania**, Russian Fed.§ (PA), Serbia§ (PA), Slovak Rep.§ (PA), Slovenia§ (PA), Sweden††, Switzerland§, Ukraine§

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Cape Verde§, South Africa§

Consequence of Unsafe Abortion

- Worldwide, an estimated five million women are hospitalized each year for treatment of abortion-related complications, such as hemorrhage and sepsis .
- Estimated 13% of maternal deaths worldwide, or 70,000 per year.
- Almost all abortion-related deaths occur in developing countries, 650 deaths/100,000 unsafe abortion in Africa but only 10/100,000 in developed countries.
- 220,000 children worldwide lose their mothers every year.

Unintended Pregnancies

The Roots of Abortion

- Estimated 208 million pregnancies worldwide in 2008, 33 million (16%) resulted in unintended birth and 41 million ended in induced abortion (20%).
- Two-thirds(100 million) of unintended pregnancies in developing countries occur among women who are not using any method of contraception.
- The reasons why women (married and unmarried) do not use contraceptives most commonly include concerns about possible health and side-effects and the belief that they are not at risk of getting pregnant.

Sex-selective abortion and female infanticide

It is suggested that sex-selective abortion might be partially responsible for the noticeable disparities between the birth rates of male and female children in some places (China, Taiwan, India, South Korea).

In the People's Republic of China the historic son preference led to an increased disparity in the sex ratio as parents attempted to circumvent the law through sex-selective abortion or the abandonment of unwanted daughters. A ban upon the practice of sex-selective abortion was enacted in 2003.

Pro-choice and Pro-life

- The pro-life position argues that a human fetus is a human being with the right to live making abortion tantamount to murder.
- The pro-choice position argues that a woman has certain reproductive rights, especially the choice whether or not to carry a pregnancy to term.

Public Opinion

Societal attitudes towards abortion

A May 2005 survey examined attitudes toward abortion in 10 European countries: “If a woman doesn't want children, she should be allowed to have an abortion”. The highest level of approval was 81% (in the Czech Republic); the lowest was 47% (in Poland).

Societal attitudes towards abortion

A similar poll in April 2009 surveyed people in the United States about U.S. opinion on abortion:

- ✧ 18% said that abortion should be "legal in all cases",
- ✧ 28% said that abortion should be "legal in most cases",
- ✧ 28% said abortion should be "illegal in most cases"
- ✧ 16% said abortion should be "illegal in all cases".

Conclusions

- ✧ Unsafe abortion, though entirely preventable, continue to occur in almost all developing countries.
- ✧ Preventing unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortion must therefore continue to be a high priority for improving women's reproductive health.

Conclusions: Current status

✧ Although the evidence remains incomplete , there are increasing indications that both incidence of unsafe abortion and resulting mortality are rising among unmarried adolescent women in urban areas ,particularly where abortion is illegal and fertility regulation services are inadequate or inappropriate.

✧ Where abortion is strictly illegal , they have no other option than to seek an unsafe abortion or continue the pregnancy- with all the attendant social and educational consequences .

Conclusions : Impacts

- ✧ The legalization of abortion has not been systematically followed by elimination of unsafe abortion because women may not be informed that safe abortion services are available or they may lack the resources, time or decision-making power to use such services
- ✧ Government need to assess the health impact of unsafe abortion, reduce the need for abortion by expanding and improving family planning services , improving access to emergency abortion care from all level of the health care system and design laws and policies to improve women's health and well being