Abortion’s PHYSICAL COMPLICATIONS
factsheet citations

Abortion’s Effects: Reproductive System

Physical Damage

Surgical abortion may harm a woman’s reproductive system, damaging her uterus or cervix, leading to future reproductive problems. Chemical abortions (using RU486, etc.) are bloody, painful, and dangerous, but the long term effects on the body are unknown.

Future Infertility

Women having abortions face more than a doubled risk of future sterility.

Later Ectopic Pregnancy

A study appearing the American Journal of Public Health in 1998 found aborting women facing a 50% increased risk of having a subsequent ectopic or tubal pregnancy. The risk was nearly twice as high (90%) for women having two or more previous abortions.

Future Miscarriages

Decreased cervical resistance due to forced dilation may result in early cervical failure and the spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) of future pregnancies.


3. Read the statement of Dr. Charles Cargille, “RU 486 Long Term Health Risks for Mother and Child” delivered to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration’s Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee Hearing on Mifepristone, July 19, 1996, transcript available at with Cargille’s testimony starting on p. 75.


Future Prematurity

Premature birth is the leading cause of infant morbidity and mortality, and at least ten international studies show previous abortions significantly increases that risk.9

Infant Disability

Preterm birth is associated with lower birthweight and higher rates of cerebral palsy, often leading to physical and mental disability.11


PAIN

Ninety-seven percent of aborting women in one Montreal study reported pain, with 61% reporting moderate to severe pain.12

U.S. researchers admit to being “surprised” at finding most women in a study of their own reporting “moderate or more discomfort” during their abortions and said they had not expected so many to report “severe pain.”13

Adolescents in the Montreal study were nearly twice as likely to report severe pain as older women. In a ranking, women put abortion pain ahead of sprains, fractures, and arthritis, but about equal to cancer pain or the residual pain from an amputation.14 Women having drug induced abortions reported higher pain levels than those having surgical abortions.15

Despite efforts by the industry to minimize abortion pain, it is an important signal that patients and doctors should heed. Pain may be a side effect of surgery or the chemical abortion process, but can also be an indicator of infection, cervical damage, uterine rupture, or an unresolved ectopic pregnancy.16

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16. Most will consider this common sense, but for those seeking a further explanation, discussion, and documentation see Chapter 9 “Pain”, in Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy and Ian Gentles Women’s Health after Abortion, 2nd Edition (Toronto: deVeber Institute, 2003), pp. 115-122.
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citations, p. 4

Injury and Death

from surgical abortion
- Infection, Sepsis, Endometritis
- Cervical Lacerations
- Uterine, Bladder, or Bowel Perforations
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
- Incomplete Abortion, Retained Tissue

from chemical abortion
- severe pain, cramping, nausea, diarrhea
- hemorrhage, infection, ruptured undiagnosed ectopic


24. Multiple sources, listed and documented in NRL ETF factsheet “RU486: Risks & Dangers” available at http://.

25. In addition to factsheet mentioned above, see NRL ETF factsheet “Deaths Associated with RU486,” at http://.
Abortion’s PHYSICAL COMPLICATIONS

Abortion Related Causes of Death

Anesthesia
Infection
Hemorrhage
Ruptured Ectopic Pregnancy
Embolism

There have been over 350 identified deaths from legal abortion in the U.S. since 1972.


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citations, p. 6

Abortion’s Link to Breast Cancer

Pregnancy & Normal Breast Development
In pregnancy, as estrogen levels elevate, immature milk glands, or lobules, begin to grow and differentiate, reaching maturity around 32 weeks. By birth, the lobules are fully formed and ready for milk production. That is why a full-term pregnancy is known to lower a woman’s long-term risk of breast cancer.34

Abortion Interrupts Breast Development
Abortions, which typically occur in the first or early second trimester, interrupt the process of breast development while estrogen is still surging, urging growth, but before full differentiation has taken place. Thus, the risk-lowering effect of full-term pregnancy is lost. Even worse, lobules stuck in this growth stage are susceptible to replication defects, which may eventually manifest themselves as cancers.35

Scientific Evidence of Abortion’s Impact
Thirteen out of 17 studies in the U.S. reported more breast cancer among women who chose abortion.36 A 1996 meta-analysis of all published reports on the incidence of induced abortion and breast cancer appearing in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health found, on average, a 30% increased risk.37

Link to Other Cancers
Abortion has also been associated with higher rates of cervical38 and ovarian cancer.39

33. The most detailed and up to date information on the abortion breast link may be found at the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute website, www.bcpinstitute.org and the website of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer as www.abortionbreastcancer.com. Most of the material cited below may be found on these sites, but with more explanation and detail.


