

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, and 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 in 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.

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.

Later Infant Disability

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

It isn't discussed much on the abortion websites or at the clinics, but most women find abortion quite painful, many, more painful than clinic counselors predict.

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

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."

Adolescents in the Montreal study were nearly twice as likely to report severe pain as older women.

In a ranking, women put their abortion pain ahead

of sprains, fractures, and arthritis, but about equal to the residual pain from an amputation.

Women having drug induced abortions reported higher pain levels than those having surgical abortions.

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.



INJURY & DEATH

Common Abortion Side Effects, Complications & Injuries

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, Rupture of Undiagnosed Ectopic

--- 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.

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. A full term pregnancy is known to lower a woman's long term risk of breast cancer.

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.

Scientific Evidence of Abortion's Impact

Thirteen out of 17 studies in the U.S. reported more breast cancer among women who chose abortion. 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.

Link to Other Cancers

Abortion has also been associated with higher rates of cervical and ovarian cancer.

Full documentation and additional info available at

www.nrlc.org

Abortion's

PHYSICAL COMPLICATIONS