

Abortion

Abortion

An abortion is when a pregnancy are ended by removing the developing baby before it can survive outside the uterus. When an abortion is not specifically induced, it is known as a miscarriage. (See page 62-63) There are various views on whether an abortion is murder or not. This decision is, however, entirely up to you as a women, do not let anyone else force their opinion on you.

When performed legally and safely, induced abortions do not increase the risk of long-term problems or infertility. In contrast, unsafe abortions (those performed by unskilled individuals, with hazardous equipment, or in unsanitary facilities) can lead to various problems and even death.

There are various reasons why woman undergo abortions. An abortion can either be done due to a health condition of the mother or baby OR the pregnant woman can choose have an abortion due to a specific reason, such as the lack of money to support another child, young age and relationship problems with the father.

There are various ways in which an abortion can be performed:

Medical Abortion

Medical abortions are abortions that are induced by certain medication. This is a safe method of abortion if the medication are taken exactly as a doctor has prescribed it. The type of medication that your doctor will prescribe are determined by, among others, the age of the fetus.

Surgical Abortion

A surgical abortion is when a doctor removes the fetus and membranes from the uterus through the vagina. Surgical abortion is quicker than medical abortion. First-trimester surgical abortions can generally be performed under local anaesthetics. Sugical abortions in the second trimester are usually done under deep sedation or general anesthesia.

Your doctor will decide whether it is better for you to have a medical or a surgical abortion.



UNSAFE Abortion

NEVER let an unskilled person perform your abortion and NEVER try to perform your abortion yourself! Unsafe abortions, by an unskilled person, in an unsterile environment can lead to infections, damage to your reproductive organs and death! Abortions are legal in South Africa. It is, thus, legal and safe to seek the help of a skilled medical practitioner.

The Law and Abortions

Any woman have the legal right to have an abortion. Only the pregnant woman needs to give consent for the abortion to be done. In the case of a person younger than 18 years old, the parent's consent are not required. An abortion should preferably be done within 12 weeks of your last menstrual period.

Abortion debate

People, all around the world have different views on abortions. Some feel that a fetus are still a little human and thus have the right to live. They feel that abortion is morally the same as murder. Others, however, feel that woman has certain reproductive rights, such as the right to decide whether or not she wants to carry and deliver a baby.

If you are thinking of having an abortion, you can speak to a social worker at a clinic or hospital. Social workers will be able to inform you on the various options for you and your baby. Social workers will also be able to provide support and counseling.

