



WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW

**Harmful Effects
of Induced Abortion**

A Summary

MOST WOMEN ARE NEVER INFORMED OF THE VERY SERIOUS RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH INDUCED ABORTION. DO YOU KNOW THAT:

- abortion can harm a woman's present and future health
- a woman's fertility can be seriously affected by abortion
- abortion is linked to the rise in breast cancer amongst women
- the direct effects of "safe legal abortion" include the death of the mother.

Abortion providers - including the *IFPA* and *Marie Stopes* in Ireland - say that women should be allowed to make an "informed choice" about abortion. But they hide the physical and psychological damage abortion does to women.

Every woman contemplating abortion should read this important leaflet

DEATH

Women can and do die from so called safe, legal abortion. Even under the best medical conditions an experienced practitioner performing a routine abortion can puncture the uterus, the bowel or the bladder causing excessive bleeding, infection and possible death.

The medical journal JAMA reported that "complications following abortions performed in free-standing abortion clinics are one of the most frequent gynaecological emergencies encountered."

A Scandinavian study covering six different countries found that "induced

abortions make up 20-35% of all maternal mortality". Causes of maternal mortality arising specifically from induced abortion range from haemorrhage (heavy bleeding) and infection to embolism (blood clots) and Cardiomyopathy (disease of the heart muscle).

CASE STUDY: DIANA LOPEZ

Diana Lopez aged 25; died February 28th 2002 in Los Angeles, California following an abortion in the Los Angeles Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. The LA Coroner's office found she "bled to death after her cervix was punctured during an abortion." Source: *The Los Angeles Times* She is one of many.

BREAST CANCER

Research indicates a strong correlation between abortion and the recent upsurge in breast cancer. There have been 33 studies carried out worldwide on the abortion-breast cancer link and of these 27 clearly show a higher rate of breast cancer in women who have

had abortions. The *National Cancer Institute* in the US revealed that women who underwent induced abortion had a 50% greater chance of developing breast cancer than women who had not previously aborted.

UTERINE PERFORATIONS & CERVICAL LACERATIONS

Abortion carries significant risk of uterine laceration or perforation i.e. tearing or piercing of the womb. This can cause severe and excessive bleeding in a woman and can also cause her womb to rupture during labour in a subsequent pregnancy.

Normally a woman's cervix is rigid and tightly closed. In an abortion the cervix must be stretched open with great force to gain access to the foetus. This can tear the cervical muscle or damage the wall of the womb. This damage permanently weakens the cervix and can lead to pre-mature birth in a later pregnancy.

INFECTION

Abortion can be a major factor in the development of disease, particularly Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). The most common symptoms of PID are pelvic pain and fever. More serious symptoms include inflammation of the fallopian tubes and abscesses (infec-

tious growths). These abscesses can rupture, causing a life threatening surgical emergency. When bacteria enter the body they cause infection and disease. In an abortion the cervix is forced open allowing easy access for bacteria and other disease-causing organisms to enter.

POST ABORTION SYNDROME (PAS)

Women experience varying degrees of emotional distress after abortion.

A recent Canadian study found that 35% of women who had abortions made visits to psychiatrists as compared to 3% who had not had abor-

tions. *Post Abortion Syndrome* is a type of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Women who suffer from PAS report various symptoms including flashbacks, nightmares, severe depression and anxiety and avoidance of things that remind them of the abortion.

SUICIDE

After abortion a number of behaviours have been observed which threaten a woman's health and ability to cope. These post-abortion behaviours tend to be self-destructive and can include suicide. In 1995 a study undertaken in Finland on 600,000 women, estab-

lished that the suicide rate in the year following childbirth and the suicide rate in the year following abortion were dramatically different.

The study found that women who had an abortion were six times more likely to commit suicide than women who had given birth to their babies.

REAL INFORMATION

This information is provided to you free of charge from people who have no financial interest in whether you have an abortion or not. Family Planning clinics who provide details of abortion "services" to you gain financially if you decide to have an abortion. Therefore, it is in their interest to withhold information on the harmful effects of abortion.

The details on this leaflet are part of a larger report which is available from the address below.



LIFE INSTITUTE