



Manual vacuum aspiration

Patient information Leaflet

November 2017

What is it?

It is an alternative to suction termination of pregnancy, previously only done under general anaesthetic (put to sleep). A small hand held device is used to empty out the contents of the uterus after some local anaesthetics (numbing the area, like going to the dentist) without putting you to sleep therefore allowing you to go home shortly after.

Who is suitable?

Anyone who wishes to have an abortion under 12 weeks gestation or after a miscarriage

Advantages

It does not require a general anaesthetic: a clinic day visit and you can usually go home within one hour.

Disadvantages

Some people dislike the idea of being awake while it is carried out. Women describe period-type pain during the procedure.

What can you expect on the day?

It involves a clinic visit of about two hours. The nurse will meet you and go through any questions that you may have. She will give you some 'pre-medication' which consists of pain-killers, antibiotic and anti-sickness medication. You will receive a local anaesthetic injection to the neck of the womb (cervix) – like going to the dentist. You can also use entonox (gas & air). The doctor will then gently dilate the neck of the womb- enough to pass a little suction tube into the womb to remove the pregnancy. At this stage you will experience a little period like crampy pain. After the procedure, you can rest in a recovery area with refreshments until you feel able to go home. The procedure itself usually takes about 10 minutes. You can go home unaccompanied and drive if you want to.

What to expect next

Immediately after the procedure, you will experience a period-like crampy pain. We will give you more painkillers if you require them. Some people may experience a light period like bleeding that can last up to 2 weeks; this is normal. However, if you bleed heavier than a period or if you experience discharge or intense pain then you should get in touch with us immediately.

If you are blood group Rhesus negative, you will receive an anti-D injection.

You will be offered contraception before you go home as you can get pregnant within the next 4 weeks after the abortion.

All tissue from abortion procedures is disposed of in a sensitive way. However, if you have specific wishes about the disposal of your pregnancy tissue, please discuss this with a member of staff before the procedure.

If you have any questions please call a member of our team on **0161-922-4190**.

Document control information

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