

DR ALPESH GANDHI FOGSI PRESIDENT2020



DR ATUL GANATRA
VICE PRESIDENT



DR JAIDEEP TANK SECRETARY GENERAL









DR MANDAKINI MEGH ICOG CHAIRPERSON

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SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION-AN UPDATE ON Medical Method of Abortion in 1st Trimester

EDITOR-



PROF . BHARTI MAHESHWARI FOGSI MTP COMMITTE CHAIRPERSON-2020

Indications of Medical METHOD OF ABORTION (MMA)in 1st trimester

 Women seeking termination of pregnancy up to 9 weeks

Contd....

Clinical assessment

- Confirmation of pregnancy
- Exact period of gestation
- Woman's general health condition
- Associated gynaecological disorders and infection
- Associated medical problems

Role of ultrasound examination

may be helpful for accurate dating when there is a discrepancy in the size of the uterus by LMP and bimanual examination.

However, this test is **not a mandatory** requirement for the provision of MTP.

- Where it is available, it can also be used to detect ectopic pregnancies along with quantitative βHCG measurements.
- Since it is an obstetric USG, it must be done in accordance with the Pre-Conception Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act.

Laboratory investigations

- Haemoglobin
- Urine for albumin and sugar
- Blood group-Rh
- Urine for pregnancy test with Nischay kit (wherever required)
- In case of existing infections, samples should be taken for culture for a final diagnosis of the type of infection.

Detailed history and clinical examination to rule out contraindication of MMA

- Anaemia (Haemoglobin <8 gm%)
- Confirmed or suspected ectopic pregnancy
- Undiagnosed adenexal mass
- Uncontrolled hypertension; BP > 160/100 mm
 Hg

Detailed history and clinical examination to rule out contraindication of medical method-

- Heart problems such as angina, valvular disease and arrhythmia which can lead to sudden cardiovascular collapse
- Severe renal, liver or respiratory disease
- Current long-term systemic corticosteroid therapy
- Current anti-coagulant therapy
- Inherited porphyrias
- Uncontrolled seizure disorder
- Allergic or intolerance to mifepristone/misoprostol or other prostaglandins
- Glaucoma

Conditions for Special Precautions in MMA

- Pregnancy with IUCD in situ: Remove IUCD before giving drugs
- Pregnancy with uterine scar: Although safe, exercise caution with history of LSCS, hysterotomy or myomectomy
- Bronchial asthma: Misoprostol, a bronchodilator can be used, but not other prostaglandins
- Pregnancy with fibroid
- Women on anti-tubercular drugs

Provider and Site Eligibility for MMA

Provider:

MMA drugs can be prescribed ONLY by Registered
 Medical Practitioners (RMPs), as per the MTP Act

Site:

- Primary, secondary and tertiary level of public sector sites
- Private sector facilities, which have been approved by the government as certified MTP sites
- Outpatient facilities (clinics) with an established referral linkage to an MTP approved site and certificate by owner of approved site displayed at clinic



Documentation/Reporting Requirement for MMA

- 1. Form I Opinion Form
- 2. Form II Monthly
 Reporting Form (to be sent to the district authorities)
- 3. Form III Admission Register for case records
- 4. Form C Consent Form



About Mifepristone

- An antiprogestin which blocks the progesterone receptors in the endometrium causing the necrosis of uterine lining and detachment of implanted embryo
- Causes cervical softening and increased production of prostaglandins, leading uterine contractions
- Sensitizes the uterus to the effect of prostaglandins
- Available as 200 mg tablet for abortion
- A small percentage of women (3%) may expel products with mifepristone alone

About Misoprostol

- A synthetic prostaglandin E1 analogue
- Binds to myometrial cells causing strong uterine contractions, cervical softening and dilatation. This leads to expulsion of conceptus from the uterus
- Available as 25, 100 and 200 mcg tablets.

Advantage of misoprostol over other prostaglandins:

- Economical and stable at room temperature in comparison to PGF2alpha derivatives
- Well absorbed from different routes of administration

Pre procedure counselling

- Women should be told about available method of termination and their consequences
- Should be discussed in detail about option for contraception
- Oral contraceptives can be started from day of mesoprostol-2nd visit and IUCD immediately after completion of process

Pre procedure counselling

- Women should be ensured she will not be denied if will not opt for contraception
- If women not decide, post procedure again counselling should be done to adopt regular contraception
- Counsellar should help woman to take decision for termination of pregnancy and method of termination and contraception
- Follow up shedule should be explained to woman

First Visit /Day 1 /Day of Mifepristone Administration

- 1. Detailed history
- 2. Counselling including general and method specific counselling
- 3. Physical and pelvic examination
- 4. Contraceptive options
- 5. Investigations (Injection Anti D 50 mcg if Rh negative)
- 6. Informed consent
- 7. Mifepristone 200 mg orally
- 8. Give contact address and phone number of the facility where woman can go in case of an emergency
- 9. Complete the follow-up card

^{*}First visit may sometimes not be the day of mifepristone administration. The day of mifepristone administration is however, taken as Day 1.

Follow-up Card for Medical method of abortion



Second Visit/Day 3/Day of Misoprostol Administration

- 1. Note any history of bleeding/pain or any other side effects after mifepristone
- Misoprostol 400 mcg (two tablets of 200 mcg) oral /vaginal
- 3. Observe for four to six hours in the clinic/hospital
- 4. Prescribe drug for pain relief
- 5. Perform bimanual examination just before discharging her from the facility, to rule out expulsion of POC
- 6. Inform the woman about warning signs
- 7. She must keep filling the card

Plan of action if there is no bleeding 24 hours after administration of Misoprostol

- Detailed history, examination and ultrasonography
 - Continuation of pregnancy-vaccume aspiration
 - Nonviable /missed----repeat dose of mesoprostol

Third Visit/Day 15/Day of Follow-up

- 1. Note relevant history
- 2. Carry out pelvic examination to ensure completion of abortion process
- 3. Reinforce contraceptive counselling and services
- 4. Advise USG if pelvic examination does not confirm the expulsion of POC or completion of abortion process or if bleeding continues
- 5. Ask the woman to report back if there are no periods within six weeks

Medical method of abortion-3 visits-checklist

FIRST VISIT / DAY 1 / DAY OF MIFEPRISTONE ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Detailed history
- Counselling including general and method specific counselling
- 3. Physical and pelvic examination
- 4. Contraceptive options
- 5. Investigations (Injection Anti D 50 mcg if Rh negative)
- 6. Informed consent
- 7. Mifepristone 200 mg orally
- 8. Give contact address and phone number of the facility where woman can go in case of an emergency
- 9. Complete the follow-up card

2ND VISIT-3RD DAY

- Note any history of bleeding/pain or any other side effects after mifepristone
- Misoprostol 400 mcg (two tablets of 200 mcg) oral /vaginal
- 3. Observe for four to six hours in the clinic/hospital
- 4. Prescribe drug for pain relief
- Perform bimanual examination just before discharging her from the facility, to rule out expulsion of POC
- 6. Inform the woman about warning signs
- She must keep filling the card

3rd visit-15th day

- 1. Note relevant history
- 2. Carry out pelvic examination to ensure completion of abortion process
- 3. Advise USG if pelvic examination does not confirm the expulsion of POC or completion of abortion process or if bleeding continues
- 4. Ask the woman to report back if there are no periods within six weeks
- 5. Reinforce contraceptive counselling and services

Treatment of failed medical method

- PRESENTING SYMPTOMS—BLEEDING WITH PAIN
 - > VITALS STABLE----- EXAMINE-----
 - ➤ POC felt at os—evacuate,
 - > POC NOT felt- do USG
- On USG—
 - ➤ NON VIABLE GESTATIONAL SAC-ADDITIONAL DOSE-600- mcg sublingually --- FU after 7 days
 - ➤ VIABLE SAC- VACCUME ASPIRATION
 - ➤ NO SAC-DECIDUAL BITS----CONSERVATIVE TREATMENT—FU after 7 days

VITALS UNSTABLE----

FLUID, BLOOD, OXYGEN, ANTIBIOTICS, OXYTOCIN-----FOLLOWED BY evacuation

Protocol for MMA for upto 9 Weeks

Mifepristone on Day 1 200 mg (1 tablet) orally (available as 200 mg tablet)	Misoprostol on Day 3		Day 15
	Dose	Route	 Confirm and ensure completion of the process Contraception
	400 mcg- 800mcg	Oral/vaginal/ sublingual/buccal	
		(WHO, 2012)	

Effectiveness of MMA

Condition	Effectiveness*	
Complete abortion	95-99%	
Heavy bleeding requiring vacuum aspiration	1-2%	
Incomplete abortion requiring vacuum aspiration	1-2%	
Heavy bleeding requiring blood transfusion	0.1-0.2%	

^{*}Ref.: Guidelines for Early Medical Abortion in India using Mifepristone and Misoprostol. WHO-CCR in Human Reproduction. AIIMS and MoHFW.

Side Effects with MMA Drugs

- a. Bleeding per vaginum
- b. Abdominal pain
- c. Fever, warmth and chills
- d. Gastrointestinal side effects
- e. Headache and dizziness



Potential Complications with MMA

- i. Severe vaginal bleeding
- ii. Incomplete abortion
- iii. Continuation of pregnancy
- iv. Infection





Chart - Excessive Vaginal Bleeding, Clinically Stable Woman

Clinical assessment

- Detailed history
- 2. Physical examination
- 3. Pelvic examination
- Investigations-Hb%, Urine exam, ABO Rh

POC felt in the cervical canal: Digital evacuation POC not felt in the canal: establish the diagnosis with USG

- i. Intravenous fluids
- ii. Oxytocics/Prostaglandins
- iii. Antibiotics
- iv. Vacuum aspiration



Chart - Excessive Vaginal Bleeding, Clinically Unstable Woman

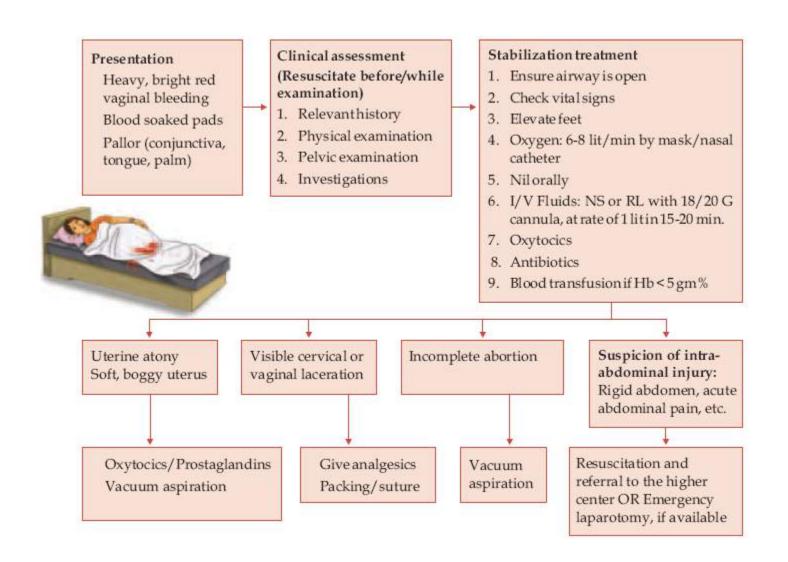


Chart - Sepsis

Presentation

Fever with or without chills
Foul-smelling vaginal discharge
History of interference
Abdominal pain
Prolonged bleeding
Unable to pass urine/stools

Clinical assessment

- 1. Detailed history
- 2. Physical examination
- 3. Pelvic examination:

Pus in cervix or vagina; adnexal/cervical movement tenderness

Uterine subinvolution

Foreign body in vagina

 Investigations: Abdominal X-ray(upright); C/S for blood, urine, cervical and vaginal swabs; LFT; KFT; USG

Initial treatment

Ensure airway is open

Check vital signs

Elevate feet

Oxygen: 6-8 lit/min by mask/nasal catheter

I/V Fluids: NSor RL with 18/20 G cannula,

Nil orally

Maintain urine input/output chart

I/V antibiotics (broad spectrum and anaerobic cover)

If woman is stable and underlying cause is retained POC:

aspiration

Continue antibiotics and IV Vacuum Suspect DIC if:

Blood does not clot

Bleeding from venipuncture sites, oral mucosa, bladder

Deranged coagulation profile Transfuse fresh whole blood/ components

Stabilize & refer to tertiary care centre

Suspect gas gangrene or tetanus if:

Gas gangrene: X-ray shows gas in pelvic tissue

Tetanus: painful muscle contractions, generalized spasms, convulsions

Refer to tertiary care centre with ICU after initial stabilization and sedation if tetanus is suspected Suspect uterine
perforation/intra
abdominal injury if:
Abdomen rigidity/
rebound tenderness
X-ray may show
air under the
diaphragm
Treat as per Chart 3 on

uterine perforation

Summary

- Abortion can be offered at an early stage of pregnancy and with more privacy by MMA.
- Counselling and ruling out contraindications is mandatory before initiating MMA procedure
- All the documentation required for surgical abortions is also required for MMA (including Forms C, I, II and III)

Summary

- The drug protocol should be strictly followed for the success of MMA
- Potential side effects during the MMA process and the warning signs and symptoms should be discussed with the woman before initiating the procedure
- Once initiated, the process of abortion has to be completed by VA in case of failure of the procedure because of a slight risk of teratogenic effect of the drugs

Pregnant woman comes for MTP



- 1. Confirmation of pregnancy
- 2. Confirmation of gestational age (P/V or USG)
- 3. Identify indication of MTP
- Discussion on method of MTP: medical/ surgical
- 5. Provide counselling for contraception



Provide MTP service



- Obtain informed consent of woman/ guardian in Form C
- Complete the Form I (If gestation age is more than 12 weeks, opinion of 2 RMPs is required)



- Form C and Form I should be placed in an sealed envelope
- 'Secret' and Serial No should be written on the envelope
- 3. Complete Form III: Admission Register
- All forms to be kept in custody of Head/Owner of Institute and should not be open for routine inspection
- Only the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has authority to inspect these confidential documents
- 6. Strict confidentiality is to be maintained
- 7. Form II is to be submitted to the CMO's office every month



Even In case of Medical Abortion- All the above forrms have to be filled

All records to be preserved till a period of <u>five</u> years from the last entry in the register

In the admission register, the serial no. of MTP in that hospital/clinic for each year will restart from serial number 1 every calendar year (from January).



REFERENCES-

- > NHM guidelines
- Comprehensive abortion caretraining and service delivery guidelines-2nd edition