

- Infertility – It is sometimes believed that after an abortion, women may have difficulty in becoming pregnant in the future. It is not however possible to be absolutely certain about this. However, the risks of this are certainly very small.
- There is a very small risk during the operation that your womb may become damaged. Depending on the damage, you may need a further procedure, for example:
 - Repair of cervical tear
 - Laparoscopy
 - Laparotomy
 - On rare occasions, a Hysterectomy

We tell you this not to alarm you, but because it is important and we feel you would wish to know.

Emotional/psychological distress

As an individual, it is difficult to predict whether you will experience any emotional problems immediately after, or in the future following an abortion. If you feel you are not coping, we would suggest that you contact either the Bedford Clinic or your GP or referring Doctor so that counselling or support can be arranged.

If you require further advice regarding the method of abortion, you can contact the **Bedford Clinic** on **0151-708-9988 extension 1130** between, **08-00 and 16-00**. During the procedure, if you require medical advice for eg. Bleeding, the **Emergency Room** is open 24 hours a day on **0151-708-9988 extension 4583**.

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LIVERPOOL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL BEDFORD CLINIC

SURGICAL ABORTION

PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION LEAFLET CAREFULLY

A surgical abortion is available between the ninth and twelfth week of pregnancy. If you are found to be suitable for this procedure, it will involve one visit to the clinic after your initial consultation.

You will be asked to sign a consent form and by doing so, you are showing that you understand and have accepted all the information provided.

THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE

The procedure takes approximately ten minutes and is carried out under general anaesthetic, which means you will be asleep.

The passage through the cervix (entrance to the womb) is dilated, gently stretched and opened until it is wide enough to allow the contents of the womb to be removed with a suction tube. A curettage (scrape) is then performed to ensure that the womb is empty.

DAY OF ADMISSION

You are requested to attend the clinic at 08-00 hrs. In order that we can maintain your privacy and confidentiality and those of other patients, we do not have visiting on the day of your operation.

Please bring with you toiletries including a towel, a pack of press on sanitary towels, a pair of briefs, nightdress/pyjamas, dressing gown and slippers. It is important that you do not bring valuables with you to the hospital.

On arrival you will be shown to your room, one of the nurses will ask you some questions and complete a health checklist. For theatre you will be asked to remove all underclothes and put on the theatre gown provided.

When it is time for your operation, you will be asked to put on your dressing gown and slippers; a nurse will walk with you to the theatre reception.

Once your details have been checked you will be taken through to the anaesthetic room on a theatre trolley. Here you will be given a general anaesthetic. After the procedure you will wake up in a recovery area and a nurse will then take you back to the ward. You will be away from the ward for approximately thirty minutes.

You may have some vaginal bleeding and cramp type pains. You will be allowed a drink of water and painkillers if required. After resting in bed you will have a light lunch and hot drinks will be available.

You should arrange for somebody to escort you home and look after you on that night, as you may feel unwell or have a heavy bleed. Your bleeding may continue on/off for up to fourteen days.

A family planning doctor / nurse will be available to discuss your future contraceptive needs.

Occasionally the surgeon who has performed your operation may request that you attend Bedford Clinic for a postoperative check. This will be discussed with you prior to discharge.

- It is recommended that you do not smoke or drink any alcohol once the procedure has commenced.
- The procedure is very individual and is therefore unpredictable with regards:

POINTS TO BE AWARE OF BEFORE YOU START THE PROCEDURE, INCLUDING RECOGNISED RISKS OF ABORTION

- The operation is carried out under general anaesthetic, therefore to avoid cancellation of your operation, it is important that you have nothing to eat / drink or smoke from midnight prior to your admission.
- It is important that you do not drink alcohol, take illegal drugs, operate machinery, i.e. drive or make important decisions for twenty-four hours after having the operation.
- It is most important that following your operation you attend your GP or referring doctor for a post operative check in four weeks time. This is because, on very rare occasions, after the abortion, women have been found to have a continuing pregnancy.
- The Trust will take responsibility for the sensitive and dignified disposal of aborted pregnancies.

RECOGNISED RISKS OF SURGICAL ABORTION

- Anaesthetic problems.
- Abnormal bleeding: - one in thirty women have problems with post-abortion bleeding. There are various causes—if you feel that your bleeding is abnormal you should contact your GP immediately. This bleeding may be treated by your GP but sometimes requires a further D&C to remove small pieces of tissue. This is because it is impossible to guarantee at the time of the operation that all of the tissue has been removed. Extremely rarely the bleeding can be heavy and potentially serious. In these situations you may contact the **Bedford Clinic** on **0151-708-9988 extension 1130** between the hours of **08-00 and 16-00** or outside these hours the **Emergency Room** on **0151-708-9988 extension 4583** (situated on the second floor) at this hospital.
- Infection – If you notice any abnormal, offensive discharge, general feeling of being unwell, high temperature/fever, you should contact your GP.