

HEALTH EDUCATION
LIBRARY FOR PEOPLE



World's largest FREE health Education library for people

We help patients to become better patients! We can help you understand your health and medical problems better so you can get better care in partnership with your Doctor.

OUR VISION

We think patients are the largest untapped healthcare resource and that Information therapy is the most Powerful Medicine !

OUR GOALS

1. Encouraging health insurance companies to invest in patient education.
2. Advocating information therapy.
3. Setting up a national network of patient education centers.
4. Developing patient educational materials in Indian Languages for the web.

For more information on this subject:
Ask the Librarian : Free Answers to any Health Questions !!

<http://www.healthlibrary.com/information.htm>

For More Info: ASK A LIBRARIAN



Health Education Library For People

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Miscarriage



**LET'S HELP
ERADICATE
IGNORANCE**

Miscarriage



Also called:

- Abortion - spontaneous; Spontaneous abortion (refers to naturally occurring events, not medical abortions or surgical abortions)
- Abortion - missed, Missed abortion (The pregnancy is lost and the products of conception do not exit the body)
- Abortion – incomplete, Incomplete abortion (Only some products of conception exit the body)
- Abortion – complete, Complete abortion (All products of conception exit the body)
- Abortion – inevitable, Inevitable abortion (The symptoms cannot be stopped, and a miscarriage will happen)
- Abortion – infected, Infected abortion (The lining of the womb, or uterus, and any remaining products of conception become infected)

A miscarriage is the spontaneous loss of a fetus before the 20th week of pregnancy. (Pregnancy losses after the 20th week are called preterm deliveries.)

Causes

Most miscarriages are caused by chromosome problems that make it impossible for the baby to develop. Usually, these problems are unrelated to the mother or father's genes. Other possible causes for miscarriage include: Hormone problems, Infection, Physical problems with the mother's reproductive organs, Problem with the body's immune response, Serious body-wide (systemic) diseases in the mother (such as uncontrolled diabetes).

Most miscarriages occur during the first 7 weeks of pregnancy. The rate of miscarriage drops after the baby's heart beat is detected. The risk for miscarriage is higher in women Older than 35 or who have had previous miscarriages.

Symptoms:

Symptoms include: Low back pain or abdominal pain that is dull, sharp, or cramping, Tissue or clot-like material that passes from the vagina, Vaginal bleeding, with or without abdominal cramps.

Possible Complications

An infected abortion may occur if any tissue from the placenta or fetus remains in the uterus after the miscarriage. Symptoms of an infection include fever, vaginal bleeding that does not stop, cramping, and a foul-smelling vaginal discharge. Infections can be serious and require immediate medical attention. Complications of a complete miscarriage are rare. However, many mothers and their partners feel very sad. Seemingly helpful advice like “you can try again” or “it was for the best” can make it harder for

mothers and fathers to recover because their sadness has been denied.

Women who lose a baby after 20 weeks of pregnancy receive different medical care. This is called premature delivery or fetal demise and requires immediate medical attention.

When to Contact a Medical Professional

Call your health care provider if: vaginal bleeding with or without cramping occurs during pregnancy, you are pregnant and notice tissue or clot-like material passed vaginally (any such material should be collected and brought in for examination).

Prevention

Many miscarriages that are caused by systemic diseases can be prevented by detecting and treating the disease before becoming pregnant. Miscarriages are less likely if you receive early, comprehensive prenatal care and avoid environmental hazards (such as x-rays, drugs, alcohol, high levels of caffeine, and infectious diseases). When a mother's body is having difficulty sustaining a pregnancy, signs (such as slight vaginal bleeding) may occur. This means there is a possibility of miscarriage, but it does not mean it will definitely occur. A pregnant woman who develops any signs or symptoms of threatened miscarriage should contact her prenatal provider immediately.

