Study using Misoprestol in treatment of

Incomplete abortion

Abstract

Background: Complications following spontaneous or induced abortion are a major cause of maternal morbidity.

To manage these complications, post-abortion care (PAC) services should be readily available and easy to access.

Standard PAC treatment includes surgical interventions that are highly effective but require surgical providers and

medical centers that have the necessary space and equipment. Misoprostol has been shown to be an effective

alternative to surgical evacuation and can be offered by lower level clinicians. This study sought to assess whether

400 mcg sublingual misoprostol could effectively evacuate the uterus after incomplete abortion and to confirm its

applicability for use at lower level settings.

Methods: All women presenting with incomplete abortion at Al-Batool teaching hospital were enrolled.

Providers were not asked to record if the abortion was spontaneous or induced. It is likely that all were spontaneous

given the legal status and easy access to abortion services in Iraq. Participants were given 400 mcg sublingual misoprostol and instructed to hold the pills under their tongue for 30 minutes and then swallow any remaining fragments. They were then asked to return one week later to confirm their clinical status. Study clinicians were instructed to confirm a complete expulsion clinically. All women were asked to complete a questionnaire regarding satisfaction with the treatment.

Results: Fourty women were enrolled between July 2016 and March 2017. Almost all participants (70%) had successful completions using a single dose of 400 mcg misoprostol.

Conclusions: This study confirms that 400 mcg sublingual misoprostol effectively evacuates the uterus for most

women experiencing incomplete abortion.