Abortion is not just a procedure—abortion is a direct act that takes the life of a child and can seriously harm his mother. If a woman does not receive help and healing after an abortion, she may suffer the rest of her life from physical and emotional pain.

If you or someone you know is facing pregnancy alone, please call Heartbeat International at 1-888-550-7577.

For information on retreats for healing after abortion, call Rachel’s Vineyard at 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

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**abortion**  Is it really just a simple medical procedure? Abortion advocates would like us to think so, but take a look at how abortions are actually performed, and what abortion doctors and clinic workers have to say.

Abortion in the United States is permitted through all 9 months of pregnancy. More than 3,000 surgical abortions are performed every day in this country. Millions more children are killed by contraceptive chemicals. The types of abortions performed at different times during the babies’ development in utero differ greatly because as the child grows, she becomes harder to kill.

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**first 12 weeks**

At 18 days, a baby’s heart starts beating. At 40 days, brain waves can be detected. By 8 weeks, when most abortions are performed, the major organs found in a fully-developed adult are present. In the first 3 months, the baby can suck his thumb, perform a somersault, respond to touch, hiccup and grasp an object. He’s ¼ inches long and is already perfectly formed.

**types of abortions performed**

**CHEMICAL CONTRACEPTIVES**—The pill, mini-pill, Depo-Provera, IUD and emergency contraception (morning-after pill). It is well known that chemical contraceptives can act to prohibit ovulation and prevent fertilization. However, most women do not know that these chemicals also act to alter the lining of the womb (uterus), rendering it too thin so that the implantation of a newly created child cannot occur. If the child does not implant in the lining of the womb and receive nourishment, he or she will die.

**MEDICAL ABORTION**—Drugs that are designed to cause abortions 100% of the time include the RU-486 regimen (mifeprax and cytotec/ misoprostol) and the MTX medical abortion (methotrexate and misoprostol). Women using these methods are usually aware that an abortion will result.

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**MANUAL VACUUM ASPIRATION**—This procedure involves ultrasound technology and a handheld syringe that creates a powerful suction. An ultrasound machine is used to detect the exact location of the child. A catheter connected to a syringe is then inserted into the uterus and the baby is sucked out of her mother’s womb.

**SUCTION-ASPIRATION**—In this most common abortion method, the cervix is dilated and a hollow tube with a knife-edged tip is inserted into the uterus. The suction machine, 29 times more powerful than a vacuum, rips the baby apart and sucks him into a bottle. An assistant to the doctor then puts the baby back together, like a puzzle, to make sure that nothing is left inside the womb.

**DILATION AND CURETTAGE**—In this rarely used method, a loop-shaped, steel knife is inserted into the uterus, slicing the baby to pieces. Both the baby and the placenta are then scraped out into a bowl.

**SALINE (used in second and third trimester abortions)**—A 20% salt solution is injected into the sac and mixes with the amniotic fluid. The baby breathes and swallows this caustic fluid and dies painfully over a period of hours from salt poisoning, dehydration, brain hemorrhage and convulsions. The mother goes into labor about a day later and delivers a badly burned, dead baby.

**INTRACARDIAC INJECTION**—Using ultrasound imagery, the doctor pinpoints the location of the baby’s heart. A long needle, filled with fluid, is then injected into the heart causing an immediate heart attack. This method is primarily used in “pregnancy reduction,” when the mother is carrying two or more babies, but doesn’t want to give birth to all of

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**types of abortions performed**

**DILATION AND EVACUATION**—Because the bones of a baby are solidly formed by 12 weeks, the doctor must use an instrument that resembles pliers. He inserts the instrument and grabs hold of the baby’s leg or another body part. He then uses a twisting motion to rip it from the baby’s body. Later, the child’s spine is snapped and the skull crushed to fit through the birth canal.

**If the abortion is well done, we don’t have to watch the baby die. So we inject a salt solution. The result is like putting salt on a slug, but we don’t have to watch it.**

— Dr. Russell Sacco, M.D.

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**4–6 months**

During this time, the baby is 8-12 inches long and weighs about one pound. The baby can now hear sounds like his mother’s heartbeat and voice. The mom can feel her baby moving. A baby born towards the end of the second trimester has a great chance of surviving.

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**I was an abortionist . . . I would go to Planned Parenthood and I would do abortions where I would be ending the life of a baby.**

— Dr. Patti Giebink

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**Sometimes we lied. A girl might ask what her baby was like at a certain point in the pregnancy. Was it a baby yet? Even as early as 12 weeks a baby is totally formed, he has fingerprints, turns his head, fans his toes, feels pain. But we would say “It’s not a baby yet. It’s tissue, like a clot”**

— Kathy Sparks, former abortion clinic worker

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**You would just look in the buckets and see arms and legs. I have horrible dreams about that now.**

— Kristen Breedlove, former clinic worker

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