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EVALUATING CLINICAL AND SOCIO-MEDICAL OUTCOMES OF ORAL ABORTIFACIENTS FOR MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN JHANSI, UTTAR PRADESH

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Dr. Nishtha Chaudhary* Assistant Professor, Department Of Obstetrics And Gynaecology, Shri Gorakshnath Medical College Hospital And Research Centre, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India *Corresponding Author

Dr. Sanjaya Sharma Professor, Department Of Obstetrics And Gynaecology, M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh Assistant Professor, Department Of General Medicine, Shri Gorakshnath Medical College Hospital And Research Centre, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

ABSTRACT

Background: Oral medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) using Mifepristone and Misoprostol presents a non-invasive approach for early abortion. Despite widespread availability across India, disparities in medical oversight and public awareness raise safety concerns. **Objectives:** To evaluate the efficacy, safety, and awareness levels associated with oral MTP pill usage among women in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study involving 200 women aged 18–40 years was conducted. Structured interviews assessed abortion outcomes, side effects, medication awareness, and level of medical supervision. **Results:** Complete abortion was observed in 86% of cases. A further 10% required additional intervention, while 4% necessitated surgical management. Complication rates were significantly higher among unsupervised users. **Conclusion:** Oral abortifacients are effective for early termination; however, proper counseling and clinical supervision are critical to reduce complications and promote safe usage.

KEYWORDS

Medical abortion, Mifepristone, Misoprostol, Jhansi, reproductive health, patient safety, India

INTRODUCTION

Medical abortion, legally recognized under India's Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, is widely practiced for terminating pregnancies up to 9 weeks gestation. Though oral MTP pills have transformed early abortion accessibility, unsupervised administration poses a threat to maternal health outcomes. This study investigates the clinical efficacy and socio-medical implications of oral abortifacients in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design: Descriptive cross-sectional
Duration: January to December 2018
Location: Government and private healthcare centers in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
Population: Women aged 18–40 years who underwent medical abortion using oral MTP pills
Sampling Technique: Purposive sampling
Data Collection: Structured interviews exploring abortion success, side effects, dosage awareness, and supervision
Ethical Clearance: Approval obtained from Institutional Review Board; informed consent secured from all participants

3. RESULTS

3.1 Abortion Outcomes

Complete Abortion: 86%
Medical Follow-up Required: 10%
Surgical Intervention: 4% Unsupervised users were overrepresented among cases with complications.

3.2 Reported Complications

Most Frequently Reported Side Effects Included:
Abdominal pain (75%)
Nausea (42%)
Fever, dizziness, and prolonged bleeding occurred in smaller proportions

3.3 Impact Of Medical Supervision

Supervised Users: Lower complication rates
Unsupervised Users: Increased reports of adverse outcomes and lack of follow-up care

4. DISCUSSION

The findings affirm existing literature on the effectiveness of oral medical abortion in well-monitored conditions. Self-administered cases, however, highlight significant gaps in health literacy, gestational assessment, and post-procedure care. The results underscore the need for improved counseling, public education, and tighter control over pharmacy dispensing of abortifacients.

5. CONCLUSION

Oral abortifacients offer a safe and efficient option for early termination when accompanied by medical guidance. Unsupervised usage, however, correlates with higher complication rates, placing women at increased risk. Broader efforts are required to align clinical availability with public health safeguards.

6. Recommendations

- Integrate reproductive health education into community outreach programs
- Regulate retail access to oral MTP pills to ensure clinical supervision
- Equip healthcare providers with patient education tools and follow-up protocols
- Mobilize grassroots health workers to support safe abortion access and awareness

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