

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN European Society of Contraception, Copenhagen, May 2013


Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences

Do women prefer medical or surgical termination of pregnancy?

Risk of repeat abortion and choice of method for pregnancy termination in women with a prior termination.

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Dias 1

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Objective

To compare:

- 1: The risk of a repeat termination of pregnancy (TOP) in women with a prior medical and/or a prior surgical TOP
- 2: The used method in the repeat termination in women with a earlier medical and/or earlier surgical termination

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Background

In Denmark, TOP became legal in 1973 and medical termination was introduced in 1997.

Both medical and surgical termination of early pregnancy at GA≤63 days has been offered in the Municipality of Copenhagen since 2000.

Until 2005 TOP was only allowed in public hospitals.

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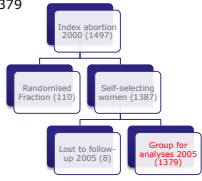
Methods

5-year follow-up study

Cohorte: 1497 women from Copenhagen with GA≤63 days

1387 selected method of termination and 110 were randomised to either medical or surgical termination.

Of 1387 women who chose method of TOP, data on repeat termination were available in 1379



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Frequency of repeat termination and method used at the repeat abortion in women with earlier medical or surgical termination

Index abortion	Medical n=791		Surgical n=588	
Repeat abortion	22% (171/791)		27% (159/588) •	
Repeat abortion Procedure	Medical	Surgical	Medical	Surgical
Frequency	49% (83/171)	51% (88/171)	13% (21/159)	87% •• (138/159)

• = $p < 0.05$ original surgical versus medical group,
•• = $p < 0.01$ surgical versus medical repeat procedure, Chi-squared test.

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What do women chose if they have experienced both types of termination?

125 women in the cohorte had a third termination after having experienced both types of termination:

37% (46/125) were performed medically and
63% (79/125) surgically, $p < 0.01$.


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Comments

- Different limits for medical and surgical termination, 9 and 12 weeks respectively. Medical termination is therefore an active choice, while the surgical procedure comprises both those who actively choose the method and those with no other choice.

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Conclusion

Overall, a quarter of the cohorte had a subsequent termination.

Women with a repeat termination tend to chose the same method as tried before, and more often a surgical termination.

Women having experienced both methods more frequently chose a surgical termination.

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Questions and comments?

Thank you for your attention.

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