

## Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA)

### Clinical procedure to remove pregnancy tissue from the womb

You have been offered the option of having the procedure to empty the pregnancy tissue from your womb under local anaesthetic rather than under general anaesthesia.

#### What is MVA?

Manual Vacuum Aspiration removes the pregnancy tissue by applying suction through a fine tube that has been inserted through the neck of your womb (cervix) into your womb (uterus).

#### How successful is MVA?

The procedure is successful in 98 out of a 100 cases. If the procedure is not successful a second treatment / other options would be advised during the same or subsequent visits.

#### How long does the MVA procedure take?

The procedure itself takes 5-10 minutes in total but you will need to be in the clinic for a total of around 2-3 hrs as there is pre and post procedure care needed.

#### How painful is it and what pain relief is available?

We want you to be as comfortable as possible during the procedure so pain medication will be given to you 1 hour before the procedure and a small tablet called misoprostol will be inserted into your vagina to help soften the neck of the womb to make the procedure easier.

During the procedure the doctor will use either a local anaesthetic injection or gel to numb the neck of the womb. The injection can sting a little when first put in but then gives good pain relief. Entonox can also be given if you wish.

The procedure is often silent and a nurse will be with you throughout to offer support and look after you. You will feel period-like pain during the procedure especially near the end of the procedure, but in most cases this is not severe and wears off quickly afterwards.

#### How much bleeding will occur?

Usually there is light bleeding for the first 1-7 days, which may last for up to 2 weeks.

#### Is MVA safe?

MVA has been studied for over 30 years and is standard practice in a lot of clinics and hospitals. When it is done in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, it has a 1 in 100 complication rate.

#### Can the MVA procedure fail?

The MVA procedure has a 98% success rates. In 2% of the cases, you may still be pregnant and the procedure or alternative procedure needs to be repeated and is then successful. You will be required to do a pregnancy test 3 weeks after your procedure. If it is positive, you will need to contact the pregnancy advisory service.

#### What are the advantages of MVA?

It is quick, safe and successful and you can go home after an hour as long as the procedure is straight forward and you are well.

**What are the disadvantages of MVA?**

The drugs given to manage pain during the procedure may cause side effects. In 1 in 100 women complications can include uterine perforation (accidentally making a hole in the womb), a tear to your cervix, hospitalisation, infection and retained pregnancy tissue.

**What happens after the MVA procedure?**

We will keep you in the ward for about an hour afterwards to check you are well enough to go home. You will be given pain killers to help with any ongoing discomfort.

If your blood group is Rhesus Negative, you will be given an injection of Anti-D. If you have had an infection in the past, or if you are likely to have an infection currently, depending on your swab results you may be given antibiotics to take.

It is advisable to be in the company of another adult for the first 24 hours after the procedure.

**What should I watch out for after the MVA procedure?**

You should see your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you have any of the following, as they may be symptoms of an infection or suggest that the procedure has failed:

- pain in your lower abdomen that does not improve with simple pain relief
- unusual vaginal discharge and any vaginal discharge that smells unpleasant
- persistent bleeding / bleeding that is getting heavier
- feeling unwell
- a high temperature or fever
- a positive pregnancy test and ongoing pregnancy symptoms (such as nausea or sore breasts)

**Who should I contact if I am concerned about any of the above things after I go home?**

**PAS** Telephone 01709 424542 (between 8.30am to 6.00pm) Monday - Thursday

**EPAU** Telephone 01709 427072 (between 8.00am to 4.00pm) Monday - Friday

**Ward B11** Telephone 01709 424349 (24hrs)

Please see your own GP or attend the Walk-In Centre if you feel unwell and cannot get through to any of the above numbers and attend A&E (UECC) in case of an emergency.

**What are the alternatives to MVA?**

The nurses and doctors will discuss alternatives that are suitable for you. These may include tablets to make the womb contract, the same operation after being put to sleep (general anaesthesia) or expectant management (waiting to see what happens naturally) depending on your circumstances.

If you require this document in another language, large print, braille, audio or easyread format, please ask our healthcare providers.

