

Abortion by Vacuum Method

THE COMPREHENSIVE Rural Health Services Project at Ballabgarh under the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences is providing the curative as well as preventive services to the community through the four primary health centres and 14 extension health centres, which are spread up in an area of 220 sq. kms. and cover a population of 87,000 in the 94 villages. A 60-bed hospital is attached to the project at Ballabgarh where medical and paramedical trainees come for rural experience.

There are 350-400 deliveries in the hospital at Ballabgarh every year and about 140-160 abortions. Most cases of abortion in the block are referred to the hospital. But instances have also been reported where abortions are handled by an indigenous dai. Repeated examinations of a mother with unwashed hands, dirty technique of the dai, unhygienic conditions of the house cause infection. Severe bleeding and sepsis leading to death may occur. In order to avoid these complications the field staff is instructed to refer all cases of abortion in the community to the hospital.

**By Miss P. Arora*

In case of an unwanted pregnancy a woman may like to have an abortion done. When abortion was not liberalised these women used to seek the help of quacks or dais who would induce abortion by introducing a wooden stick or a piece of grape fruit or a pack of dirty rags. These methods endanger the life of the mother and many such cases are admitted to the hospitals with severe rupture.

Termination of Pregnancy

In April, 1972 The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act came into being legalising abortions in specific circumstances. Thus abortion can be done up to 20th week of pregnancy. Different methods are used to induce abortion. Up to 12th week of pregnancy the operation of Dilatation of cervix and evacuation followed by curettage is the best method. With the advent of suction curettage, using hand pump or electrically operated instruments, the procedure has become very simple and fast.

The induction of abortion beyond 12th week of pregnancy is either carried out by Hypertonic Saline method or surgically. The use of prosteglandins is in an experimental stage.

**Rural Health Centre, Ballabgarh, Haryana.*

Hand Pump Uterine Suction Evacuator (H.P.S.E.) is being carried out at the Ballabgarh Project Hospital. It is the safest, easiest and the cheapest method. In this case a woman is hospitalised for a day or two only. A vacuum is created at 27" of Hg. and the products of conception are evacuated.

Causes for Termination of Pregnancy

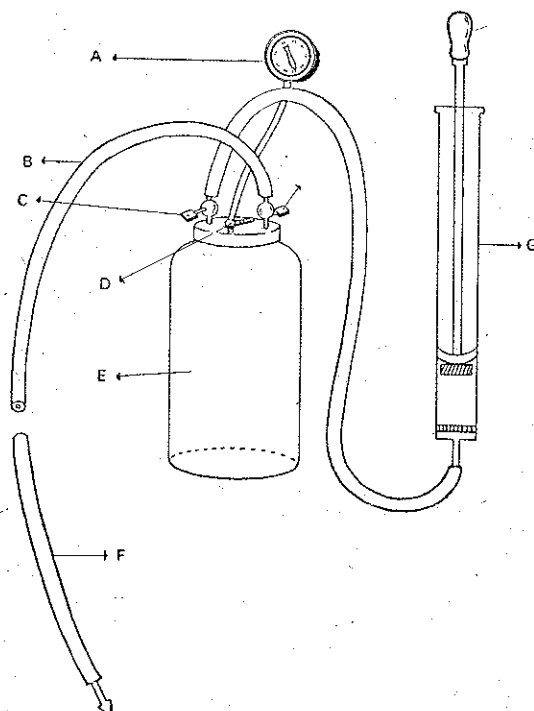
A. Medical Indications :

1. A woman suffering with cardiac disease, chronic nephritis and pulmonary tuberculosis etc.
2. Chorea, Goitre and Insanity
3. Hyperemesis gravidarum
4. Hydatidiform mole
5. Missed abortion
6. Severe anaemia

B. Other causes :

1. Poor socio-economic condition
2. Very little spacing between the living child and the recent pregnancy
3. Pregnancy by rape
4. Illegitimate pregnancy
5. Failure of a contraceptive method, used by the couple.

HAND PUMP UTERINE SUCTION EVACUATOR (HPSE)



A. Vacuum Gauge.
C. Outlet Tap,
E. Bottle,
G. Handpump

B. Rubber Pressure Tubing,
D. Inlet stop-cock
F. Karmen curette