Women who have sexually transmitted diseases – like chlamydia or gonorrhea – at the time of their abortions run the risk of spreading the disease to their upper genital tracts. This is known as Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, or PID, and is a major cause of miscarriages, ectopic (tubal) pregnancies, and sterility. Some women are not aware they have PID until they have problems conceiving other children.

If you are experiencing a problem pregnancy, the people who provided this brochure would be glad to give you any help they can.

There are alternatives to abortion.

Contact:

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**DANGERS FOR THE WOMAN**

Induced or elective abortion produces more than a dead baby. There are dangers for the woman having an abortion as well.

**Complications From abortion include:**

- Heavy bleeding
- Infection
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
- Tearing of the cervix (the opening to the womb)
- Puncture or tear of the womb

Women – especially teenagers – who abort their first pregnancies, or who have a family history of breast cancer, have a greater risk of developing breast cancer later in life.

**Psychologically, many women report:**

- Feelings of guilt, depression
- Feelings of detachment from others
- Lack of interest in sex
- Diminished self-worth
- Increased drug or alcohol abuse
- Nightmares and flashbacks
- Suicidal thoughts

Sometimes these symptoms don’t show up for years after an abortion.

**DANGERS TO FUTURE CHILDREN**

There are also dangers to the children you might want to have in the future:

- Sterility (one out of twenty women may never again bear children)
- Miscarriages
- Premature births
- Ectopic (tubal) pregnancies
- Neo-natal deaths

Among teenage women, the effects of abortion on later wanted pregnancies appear to be even worse than among women in general.