Should I have an Abortion?

Take this test and find out (circle your answers)

1. I am a teenager. True False
2. I have had a previous abortion. True False
3. I have other children. True False
4. I am married. True False
5. My pregnancy is 13 weeks along or more. True False
6. Someone (my husband, parents, boyfriend, doctor, counselor, employer) is pressuring me into this abortion. True False
7. I have a negative attitude toward abortion. True False
8. I am a religious person. True False

Ask your doctor about the physical & psychological complications of abortion.

If you want more information on post-abortion trauma, or documentation for any claims made in this brochure, email staff@lifemattersww.org. On the web, visit www.lifemattersww.org.

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What is my risk?

Studies show that some women have trouble handling their emotions after an abortion. They report the following common experiences:

depression  OUTBURSTS OF RAGE  unresolved grief or sense of loss  self-condemnation  nightmares  low self-esteem  emotional numbness  loneliness  guilt
flashbacks to the abortion  pain during intercourse  difficulty in relationships  divorce  drug and alcohol abuse  increased smoking
eating disorders  suicidal thoughts or attempts  inability to forgive oneself  self-punishing behavior  chronic crying  difficulty bonding with later children  increased school or work related problems  increased conflicts with the law  trouble concentrating
loss of self-confidence  difficulty keeping a job

Women suffer these symptoms in varying degrees, depending on how high their risk was going into the abortion. Some have sued doctors who performed their abortions because they were not warned of these complications.

SUMMARY: If abortion is against YOUR beliefs or values . . . against YOUR maternal instincts . . . If you are being pressured . . . If you have other pre-existing risk factors . . . then abortion is dangerous for YOU.

CAUTION! Abortion is also dangerous to your physical health if you have any of the following risk factors:

• a venereal infection  • kidney disease
• Rh sensitivity  • prior abortions
• prior pregnancy complications  • obesity
• a prior C-section  • heart disease
• prior tubal pregnancy  • diabetes
• epilepsy  • asthma
• no prior pregnancies delivered to term

Why is abortion so traumatic?

When the high risk woman aborts, she betrays herself and her baby. It is an event she will not be able to forget. Instead of resulting in freedom and happiness, abortion robs a person of just those things. In attempting to escape a desperate situation through abortion, she lands in deeper trouble. For the high risk patient, abortion is a bad medical decision.

If you decide against having an abortion and need help coping with your pregnancy, contact the people who gave you this brochure:

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Should I have an Abortion?

I generally have conservative values. True  False

In the past I have believed abortion is wrong. True  False

I feel there is something shameful about abortion. True  False

I plan to keep this abortion a secret. True  False

Before becoming pregnant I would never have considered abortion for myself. True  False

I have a strong desire to be a mother. True  False

I was happy when I first learned I was pregnant. True  False

I planned this pregnancy. True  False

I have fantasized about this child. True  False

I would continue this pregnancy if my situation was better. True  False

Others are encouraging me to have an abortion. True  False

I feel this decision is not really my own. True  False

I feel abortion is my only choice. True  False

I am feeling forced into this decision. True  False

I have a history of being sexually abused. True  False

I have been sexually assaulted in the past. True  False

I have a history of unresolved trauma. True  False

I have had psychological or emotional problems. True  False

I have a low self-image. True  False

I have a poor work pattern. True  False

I am aborting because my baby would be born with defects. True  False

I am aborting because continuing the pregnancy would harm me. True  False

I feel very alone in making this decision. True  False

I made my decision to abort on a strictly rational basis, without considering my emotional needs. True  False

My partner does not support my decision to abort. True  False

My parents do not support my decision to abort. True  False

I have few friends. True  False

My relationship with my partner is unstable. True  False

My relationship with my family is poor. True  False

My partner will go with me when I have the abortion. True  False

I am aborting to please someone else. True  False

If I don’t abort, my partner will leave me. True  False

I became pregnant because I failed to use contraceptives. True  False

I have difficulty coping with my emotions. True  False

I blame myself for becoming pregnant. True  False

I don’t have complete, accurate or unbiased information on abortion. True  False

I feel rushed into making a decision about this pregnancy. True  False

I have lingering doubts about my abortion decision. True  False

If any statement is ‘True’ of you, you are high risk.

Researchers have found that psychological problems are most likely to occur among women with any one or more of the factors above. Amazing as it sounds, at least 15 to 25 percent of abortion patients will experience some form of trauma afterward. This makes sense because abortion can be a traumatic experience. If you saw yourself described above, you need to carefully reconsider your decision to abort.

IMPORTANT: You have a legal right to be fully informed of all potential risks. The failure to screen for risk factors, or to fully inform you of risks and alternatives is a form of medical malpractice.