

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

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

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:

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.

Should I have an Abortion?

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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**

9 I generally have conservative values.
True False

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

11 I feel there is something shameful about abortion.
True False

12 I plan to keep this abortion a secret.
True False

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

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

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

16 I planned this pregnancy.
True False

17 I have fantasized about this child.
True False

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

19 Others are encouraging me to have an abortion.
True False

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

21 I feel abortion is my only choice.
True False

22 I am feeling forced into this decision.
True False

23 I have a history of being sexually abused.
True False

24 I have been sexually assaulted in the past.
True False

25 I have had psychological or emotional problems.
True False

26 I have a history of unresolved trauma.
True False

27 I have a low self-image.
True False

28 I have a poor work pattern.
True False

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

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

31 I feel very alone in making this decision.
True False

32 No one knows about my pregnancy.
True False

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

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

35 I have few friends.
True False

36 My relationship with my partner is unstable.
True False

37 My relationship with my family is poor.
True False

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

39 I am having this abortion to please someone else.
True False

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

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

42 I have difficulty coping with my emotions.
True False

43 I blame myself for becoming pregnant.
True False

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

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

46 I have lingering doubts about my abortion decision.
True False

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