

Abortion of Teenagers

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During the last 10 years 70-80 abortions fell on 100 live births in Hungary. According to statistics 13.8 per cent of abortions were carried out on women younger than 18. The authors analysed abortions carried out on young women under the age of 18 between 1994-2000 (918 cases) in county Hospital Borsod.

During this period the number of births and abortions decreased; the number of abortions carried out on young women (under 18) also decreased in absolute terms and in proportion either. The authors conclude that most abortion cases affected young girls (16-18) living in single-parent families with low qualifications. The 918 cases studied showed that only 36 abortions were carried out on doctor's advice, which is only 3.92 per cent. In 882 cases, which is 96.08 per cent, abortions were carried out not on doctor's advice. In 79.67 per cent of the cases the operation took place before the 12th week of pregnancy mostly with laminaria + vacuum method. After the 12th week of pregnancy (in 20.33 per cent of the cases), the operations took place with Prepidil or laminaria - oxytocin infusion method. The authors find it important to note that in case of young women the doctor should be very experienced; it's very important to widen the cervix carefully-, it's important to use antibiotics prophylaxis to avoid complications (perforation, rezidum, inflammation).

Out of the 918 cases studied only 12 showed complications (1.08 per cent). It's an unfavourable tendency that the rate of repeated abortions is high (30 per cent) which is due to the fact that only 17 per cent of the women were under regular gynaecological treatment at outpatient care units. In their cases prevention is successful because 84 per cent of the listed patients regularly use contraception to avoid another unwanted pregnancy.