

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) under local anaesthesia

Surgical management of miscarriage under local anaesthesia using manual vacuum aspiration.

We are sorry to hear you have had a miscarriage.

An MVA is a surgical procedure done under local anaesthetic. We hope this information will be useful in helping you understand the procedure and what to expect.

What is Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA)?

This is removing the contents of miscarriage from your womb using gentle suction from a handheld syringe. This is an alternative to surgical management of miscarriage under general anaesthesia.

What does MVA involve?

You will have a speculum examination, like one used for a cervical smear test.

The doctor would then inject local anaesthetic into the cervix to help to numb the area. A thin plastic tube is passed through the cervix into the womb and uterus. The contents are removed using gentle suction from a syringe attached to the tube.

The procedure takes 10-15 minutes during which you may feel discomfort. If you experience any significant pain, please let the doctor / nurse know.



Is this a new procedure?

This procedure has been well-established for 30 years. It has similar success rates as traditional surgical management and has a high safety record.

At UHCW we have recently introduced this option to provide women more choice when experiencing pregnancy loss.

How does MVA compare against traditional surgical management under general anaesthetic?

MVA is as effective as surgical management under general anaesthetic. 97 out of 100 women will not need any further surgical treatment.

You avoid complications related to general anaesthetic and are no more likely to have any surgical complications.

You do not need to fast before to the procedure. MVA also has a significantly shorter length of stay in hospital.

What are the risks?

MVA has a high safety profile. The risks are similar to those of surgical treatment under general anaesthesia. The risks include:

- Heavy bleeding
- Infection
- Incomplete emptying (1-2 in 100)
- Tear in the womb or perforation (1 in 1000). If a perforation occurs, we may need to check for internal injury. This would involve keyhole surgery under general anaesthesia.

I wish to have MVA. What happens next?

A member of the team will give you a date and time to come in for the procedure. You must attend the day before the procedure to have a blood test.

Patient Information

Medication will be given to you to take home and have on the morning of the procedure. These will be painkillers and tablets to soften the cervix (misoprostol).

On the day of procedure

Misoprostol is a prostaglandin used to soften the cervix. This must be taken sublingually (under the tongue) 1 hour before your appointment. You will also need to take the painkillers one hour before the procedure.

If you are asthmatic and cannot take ibuprofen before, an alternative painkiller will be provided.

The procedure will be performed on Gynae Suites. This is located on the 2nd floor next to Ward 23.

What happens after the procedure?

You will be monitored until you feel well enough to go home. This is usually within 1-2 hours.

If you are a rhesus negative blood group, an injection of Anti-D will be given. You will have already been given painkiller medication for home.

What happens to the pregnancy tissue removed?

The tissue removed will be sent to the lab for examination with your consent. In most cases, the tissue goes for a monthly burial arranged by the hospital.

If you wish to make private arrangements, we can request that the tissue be returned to you after the examination.

Patient Information

How long would I bleed for?

You may experience ongoing vaginal bleeding, like the end of a period, for several days. This can last up to 3 weeks. Please avoid tampons as it can increase the risk of infection.

If the blood loss becomes heavier or offensive smelling, please contact us. This sometimes suggests infection and you may need a course of antibiotics.

For further information please contact the Department on 024 7696 7000 or Miscarriage Association on 01924 200799.

www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please ask and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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