

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) Under Local Anaesthesia

Surgical management of miscarriage under local anaesthesia using Manual Vacuum Aspiration

We are very sorry that you have had a miscarriage. If you have chosen to have surgical management, we can offer you this option under general anaesthetic or under local anaesthetic; this is called MVA. We hope this information will be useful in helping you understand the procedure, what your other options are and what to expect.

What is Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA)?

This is removing the contents of miscarriage from your womb with use of gentle suction from a hand held syringe. This is an alternative to surgical management of miscarriage under general anaesthesia.

What does MVA involve?

You will have a speculum examination, similar to one used for a cervical smear test. The doctor would then inject local anaesthetic into the cervix which helps to numb the area. A thin plastic tube is then passed through the cervix into the womb and uterus and the contents removed using gentle suction from a syringe attached to the tube. The procedure takes 10-15 minutes during which you may feel mild 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 with a 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.



Patient Information

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

You also don't need to fast prior to the procedure and have significantly shorter length of stay in hospital.

What are the risks?

MVA has a high safety profile. The risks are similar to 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 & time to come in for the procedure. You will be asked to attend the day before the procedure to have a blood test & if possible to obtain consent. Medication will be given to you to take home; these will be pain killers & tablets to soften the cervix (misoprostol).

On the day of procedure:

Misoprostol is a prostaglandin used to soften the cervix. This needs to be inserted sublingually (under the tongue) 1 hour before your procedure time. You will also need to take the pain killers given to you one hour prior to the procedure. If you suffer from asthma and haven't had Ibuprofen before, an alternative pain killer will be provided. The procedure will be performed on Gynae Suites which 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 already have been give 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 is disposed of by the hospital at a monthly burial. If you wish to make private arrangements we can request that the tissue be returned to you following examination.

Patient Information

How long would I bleed for?

You may experience ongoing vaginal bleeding like the end of a period for a few days, it can however 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 as it 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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Document History

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Published	May 2016
Reviewed	January 2019
Review	January 2021
Version	3
Reference No	HIC/LFT/2067/16