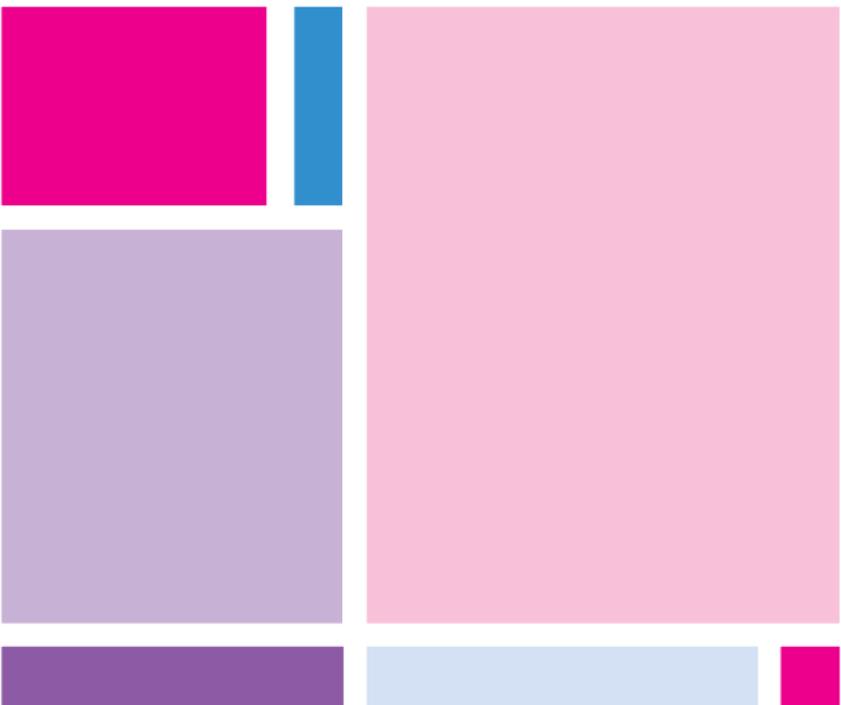


Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA)

**Patient Information Leaflet
Obstetrics & Gynaecology**



Improving options in miscarriage management:

We are sorry that you have been diagnosed with a miscarriage. If you have opted for a surgical treatment, we are now able to offer you a choice between having General Anaesthetic or having a procedure using Local Anaesthetic. This procedure is called MVA (Manual Vacuum Aspiration)

What is MVA?

MVA is an alternative procedure to surgical management of miscarriage without general anaesthetic.

MVA has been shown to be:

- 98-99% effective
- Associated with less blood loss
- Associated with less pain
- No risks of general anaesthetic
- Reduced risk of womb perforation
- Shorter length of stay in hospital than general anaesthetic
- You can drive home the same day, although you may wish to arrange to have someone pick you up in case you feel unable to travel on your own.

What does MVA involve?

You will come to our Gynaecology Day Suite on the ground floor, Women & Children's Unit. You will be asked to take some pain killers such as Paracetamol 1 gm (2 tablets) and Brufen 400 mg by mouth one hour before your appointment. You will be given a Misoprostol tablet to place under your tongue which will soften the neck of the womb an hour prior to the procedure. Misoprostol will be offered to you only if this is your first pregnancy or you have not had a previous vaginal birth.

What preparation do I need?

You can eat and drink normally before the procedure.

How long does the procedure take? What does it involve?

The procedure itself takes about 10-15 minutes.

Once you are prepared a speculum is inserted into the vagina to see the neck of the womb. Local anaesthetic will be injected into the neck of the womb. The neck of the womb will be gently opened up. A plastic tube will be inserted into the womb and products will be gently removed using suction. You will feel some cramps during this part of the procedure. You may ask for Entonox (gas and air) for pain relief during this time if you wish. This is short lived lasting for 1-2 minutes.

What happens after the procedure?

You will have light bleeding and cramps which will wear off gradually. You will be offered to rest in a reclining chair for an hour after the procedure. You will be given further pain killers if need be. If you are Rhesus negative you will be given an anti-D injection. You will be also given an antibiotic tablet called Azithromycin to take by mouth before you go home.

What are the risks of the procedure?

Although MVA has been proven to be very safe, like any treatment there are some risks:

- There is a small risk that we may not remove all the tissue, therefore the procedure would have to be repeated again.
- There is a small risk of bleeding, and even smaller risk of severe bleeding, which may result in needing a blood transfusion.
- There is a minimal risk of infection - which can be treated with antibiotics.
- There is a very rare risk of perforating the womb (a hole in the uterus).
- You may also feel faint after or near the end of the procedure. This reaction is normal and usually disappears soon after.

What alternatives are available?

There are several alternatives to managing your miscarriage and these should already have been discussed with you by nursing staff. These include:

- Conservative Management, i.e., doing nothing and allowing the natural expulsion of the miscarriage.
- Medical Management using tablets to make you miscarry.

When to contact Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU)?

If you experience any of the following symptoms please contact EPAU:

- heavy bleeding
- severe abdominal pain
- fever
- vaginal discharge which is offensive

If you are unwell please do not wait until the morning hours. You may contact your out of hours GP or attend A&E.

If you have any questions regarding your care during the procedure please do not hesitate to ask the nurse or doctor in the clinic.

Options available

If you'd like a large print, audio, Braille or a translated version of this leaflet then please call: **01253 655588**

Patient Relations Department

For information or advice please contact the Patient Relations Department via the following:

Tel: **01253 655588**

email: **patient.relations@bfnh.nhs.uk**

You can also write to us at:

Patient Relations Department, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool FY3 8NR

Further information is available on our website:
www.bfnh.nhs.uk

Travelling to our sites

For the best way to plan your journey to any of the local sites visit our travel website:

www.bfnhospitals.nhs.uk/departments/travel/

Useful contact details

Main Switchboard: **01253 300000**

Early Pregnancy Fetal Assessment Unit 01253 303731

References

This leaflet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available, and represents an accumulation of expert opinion and professional interpretation.

Details of the references used in writing this leaflet are available on request from:

Policy Co-ordinator/Archivist
01253 303397



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