

# **Complications of abortion**

# Aims

- ✓ To recognise an abortion
- ✓ To learn how to perform a manual vacuum aspiration
- ✓ To learn how to recognise and manage a septic abortion
- ✓ To achieve competence in those skills

# Clinical types of abortion

- Spontaneous
  - Threatened
  - Inevitable
  - Incomplete
  - Missed
  - Complete
- Induced
  - Termination of pregnancy
  - Unsafe abortion

# Safe and unsafe abortions

- Safe abortion
  - temperature  $<37.2$  °C,
  - Pulse  $<90$  beats per minute,
  - Respiratory rate  $< 20$  per minute,
  - Uterus  $<12$  weeks in size,
  - POC not foul smelling,
  - Haemoglobin  $>10$ g/dl
  - No clinical signs of infection
  - No system or organ dysfunction or failure
  - No suspicious findings on evacuation of the uterus
- Unsafe abortion
  - Anything else!
- Level of Treatment
  - Safe abortion
    - MVA at CHC/Level 1 institution
  - Unsafe abortion
    - Level 1 with theatre facilities (provided no organ system dysfunction)
    - Level 2 or 3

# Performing MVA

- See DVD/CD

# Indications for evacuation in theatre

- Uterus larger than 14 week size
- Septic abortion
- Very anxious patient

unstable pt

hb < 8

signs of interference - mx as septic

incomplete

# **Septic abortion**

# Recognition

- ✓ Fever: temperature  $> 38$  °C
- ✓ Warm extremities
- ✓ Fast breathing
- ✓ Increased maternal and fetal heart rate
- ✓ Altered mental state
- ✓ Low BP
- ✓ Septic shock
- ✓ Tender lower abdomen
- ✓ Cervix open with a foul smelling discharge



# Principles of management

- ✓ ABCs
- ✓ In all start iv fluids
- ✓ Use fan and tepid sponge to decrease temperature if necessary
- ✓ In all start iv antibiotics
- ✓ Assess all organ systems for signs of impairment or failure
- ✓ Remove source of infection (evacuate uterus/ remove uterus)
- ✓ Support all organ systems
- ✓ Treat other suspected causes

# Organ system evaluation

- Big 5
  - CNS – Glasgow coma scale decreased
  - Resp – Tachypnoea, Oxygen Sat <90%
  - CVS – tachycardia; shock
    - (septic shock – BP not respond to fluid bolus)
  - Liver – abnormal liver enzymes
  - Renal – decreased urine output, urea and creatinine raised
- Forgotten 4
  - Endocrine – glucose reduced
  - GIT – bowel sounds absent (acute abdomen)
  - Haematological – Haemoglobin, platelets, white cell count
  - Immune – HIV status, temperature
- Core 1
  - Genital system – uterine size, abdominal tenderness, cervix open, foul smelling discharge

# Indications for hysterectomy

- Single organ system failure with uterus 16 weeks or more (size)
- Two organ system failures

# Parenteral antibiotics

- ✓ Cephalosporins preferred but may not be readily available or expensive
- ✓ Combination of
  - **Ampicillin** 2g iv 6 hourly plus
  - **Gentamicin** 5 mg / kg iv every 24 hours plus
  - **Metronidazole** 500 mg iv 8 hourlyis a good option

?

# RECAP

- ✓ **Recognition of abortion**
- ✓ **Types of abortion**
- ✓ **How to perform a MVA**
- ✓ **How to recognise septic abortion**
- ✓ **How to assess a woman with a septic abortion**
- ✓ **Principles of Management**