

*UNIT 3: GYNECOLOGY*  
*SECTION A: GENERAL GYNECOLOGY*

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# Educational Topic 34: Pregnancy Termination

**Rationale:** Pregnancy termination is a reproductive option. Patients may consider it based on their personal life circumstances as well as in the setting of fetal anomalies or maternal illness. Regardless of personal views about abortion, students should be knowledgeable about its public health importance as well as techniques and complications.

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

A student should be able to:

- Provide non-directive counseling to patients surrounding pregnancy including unintended pregnancy
- List surgical and non-surgical methods of pregnancy termination
- Identify potential complications of pregnancy termination
- Describe the public health impact of the legal status of abortion

**TEACHING CASE**

**CASE:** The patient is a 14-year-old G1P0 female who presents to a private clinic requesting termination of pregnancy. Her last menstrual period began 9 weeks prior to arrival. She has been experiencing intermittent nausea and vomiting. She is sexually active with her 21-year-old partner and reports she is having consensual sex with him. She has been using condoms for contraception. She has no history of sexually transmitted infections. She has mild asthma for which she uses an inhaler as needed. She denies alcohol, drug, or tobacco use and lives with her mother and 17-year old brother. Her physical exam is unremarkable, uterine size is approximately 8 weeks. Ultrasound confirms intrauterine pregnancy at 8 weeks with fetal heart motion present.

**COMPETENCY-BASED DISCUSSION & KEY TEACHING POINTS:**

Competencies addressed:

- Patient Care
- Medical Knowledge
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills
- Professionalism
- Systems-Based Practice

1. What is “options counseling” and how would you counsel this patient about her options?
2. Is this patient a victim of sexual abuse? Should this case be reported to authorities?
3. Can the patient consent for termination herself or must she have parental consent since she is a minor?
4. What types of abortion is this patient eligible for, given her gestational age of 8 weeks?
5. How is a surgical abortion performed?
6. How is a medical abortion performed?
7. What are the potential complications of abortion?

8. How should this patient be counseled about contraception?

9. How can the patient pay for her abortion?

#### REFERENCES

Beckman CRB, et al. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2013.

Hacker NF, Moore JG, et al. *Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2010.

ACOG Practice Bulletin 143, Medical Management of First Trimester Abortion, March 2014.