

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MID TRIMESTER ABORTIONS WITH ETHACRIDINE LACTATE AND HYPERTONIC SALINE

By

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## SUMMARY

The present study has been done to find out the safe, simple and effective method for termination. Twenty per cent saline was used intra-amniotically in 150 cases and 50-150 ml emcredil extramniotically in 150 cases. It was observed that success rate was almost similar in both groups (98% and 98.7%). But less risks of incomplete (12%) abortion and complications (6%) were seen with emcredil. It was concluded that emcredil is better, safe, simple and effective method although induction abortion interval was longer as compared to that of saline.

### Introduction

The termination of pregnancy is one of the oldest and commonest form of pregnancy control. Due to prenatal foetal sex anomalies detection in IInd trimester, incidence of termination of pregnancy in IInd trimester has increased. Illegal pregnancy is also antitutory to this. Various methods have been tried but none is considered ideal. Efforts are therefore being made to find out a method which is technically safe, simple and effective.

### Material and Methods

The present study is a review of 300 cases of mid-trimester (12-20 weeks) termination of pregnancy by intramniotic instillation of hypertonic saline 20% (150 cases) and by extraamniotic instillation of emcredil 50-150 ml by No. 16

catheter (150 cases). Cases who do not abort within 72 hours, were considered failure. Unitocin 5 amp. in 540 ml of 5% dextrose by i.v. drip, starting with 12 drops/min and increasing by 12 drop/min every  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour till a rate of 60 drop/min was reached, were given to all patients.

### Observations

TABLE 1  
Showing induction-abortion interval

Induction-abortion interval	Intra-amniotic saline 20%	Extra-amniotic Emcredil
Within 48 hours	105 (70%)	30 (20%)
24 - 36 "	26 (17.3%)	53 (35.3%)
36 - 48 "	14 (9.3%)	50 (33.3%)
48 - 72 "	3 (2%)	14 (9.3%)
Failure	2 (1.3%)	3 (2%)

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TABLE II  
Showing Overall Success Rate & Complications

	Emcredil (150 cases)	Saline (150 cases)
Success rate	147 (98%)	148 (98.67%)
Complete abortion	132 (88%)	108 (72%)
Complications	9 (6%)	58 (38.7%)
1. Pain	—	24
2. Nausea & vomiting	—	12
3. Fall in B.P. (Systolic B.P. <100 mm of Hg.)	—	6
4. Temp. >38 °C	6	6
5. Post abortal bleeding	3	10

### Discussion

Abortion with hypertonic saline is still viewed with apprehension with regards to its safety. Caneron and Dayan (1966) noted 2 deaths due to massive cerebral infarction. In our series complications were more (38.7%) with saline method rather than emcredil. Extraamniotic emcredil was considered to be highly effective (98%) and with very little evidence of sepsis (Burnett *et al*, 1974). In our series success rate was almost similar in both groups (98% and 98.7%) but incom-

plete abortion risk were more (28%) with saline. Thus it is concluded that emcredil extraamniotic route method is much safer and effective than saline. The major disadvantage however is that induction abortion interval is longer as compared to that of saline.

### References

1. Burnett, S. L., Wentz, A. C. and King, T. M.: *Obstet. & Gynec. Survey*, 22, 6, 1974.
2. Caneron, J. M. and Dayan, A. D.: *Brit. Med. J.* 1, 1010, 1966.