

1: Pieleg Polozna. 1988;(5):7-9 contd.

[The role of the midwife in decreasing the number of abortions]

[Article in Polish]

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PIP: Midwives do not play an apparent role in family planning and in avoiding unwanted pregnancies. Nevertheless, they should pay more attention to this problem, primarily in the case of women who are less knowledgeable about family planning. Induced abortion should not be a means of family planning since it has many harmful consequences. Different means of contraception have been known for centuries, but the social movement for "birth control" dates back only to the 19th century. The International Society of Family Planning was organized in the 1950s, while the idea of birth control in Poland arose only in 1956. Before the amendment on abortion was added to the Polish constitution, the annual number of illegal abortions was about 300,000. In the era of legal abortions it is the task of physicians and midwives to propagate other means of family planning. Induced abortion results in complications in 2%-5% when carried out in the first 6-7 weeks of pregnancy, in 5%-10% in weeks 8-12 and in 20% after the 13th week. One of the most frequent complications is psychogenic. Among the women involved in a study conducted by Kokoszka, 104 out of a total of 500 women reported for a follow-up examination. Disturbance in orgasm occurred in 45 cases, decrease of sexual desire in 48 cases, reduction of sexual drive in 73 cases, and nervousness in 14 cases. The risks of induced abortion are ranked as 1) sexual nervousness 2) clinically diagnosable pain 3) general and organic nervousness. W. Poltawska adds the following. Psychological complications: depression and feelings of guilt, aggression and auto aggression, and prolonged changes in personality.

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