

CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING SECOND TRIMESTER ABORTION SERVICES IN VIETNAM

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VIETNAM GENERAL INTRODUCTION

- Population: 80 million
- Abortion: 1 million/ year
- 10% 2nd trimester abortion due to unwanted pregnancy or fetus anomaly or serious conditions of mother health.

SECOND TRIMESTER ABORTION IN VIETNAM

- Abortion : legal in Vietnam
- Gestation ages of abortion: 6-24 weeks of amenorrhea
- Methods for second trimester abortion
 - 13-18 weeks: D&E
 - 18-24 weeks:
 - *Extra-amniotic instillation (Kovac's)
 - *Medical abortion (Misoprostol)

Dilation and evacuation (D&E)

- Cervical preparation:
Misoprostol 400-800 mcg
- Special instruments to evacuate the fetus:
 - Manual aspirator and big canulae
 - Special forceps

MEDICAL ABORTION

- Gestation ages: 18-24 weeks
- 200 mcg/ 3-6 hours depends on gestation ages
- Effective
- Safe, simple

CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING 2ND TRIMESTER ABORTION

- Policy
- Standard regimens
- Facility
- Health providers
- Clients

CHALLENGES: POLICY

- 2nd trimester abortion: legal, but only D&E is regulated in the National guideline of RH.
- 2nd trimester abortion provided at provincial or central levels
- 2nd trimester MA just applied at central levels (OB&GYN hospital)
- Seem to be researches rather than regular services

CHALLENGES: STANDARD REGIMEN

- No standard regimen for 2nd trimester medical abortion
- Hospitals apply different regimens for 2nd trimester MA
- Current regimens are not powerful enough to persuade MOH to make alterations in National guidelines

CHALLENGES: FACILITY

- Safe services at central levels:
overloaded!!!

Insufficiency of patient beds

Waiting for a long time

- Unsafe services: available

CHALLENGES: HEALTH PROVIDERS

- Lack of access to training the best practice
- A few HP have experiences
- No legal protector (MA for 2nd trimester not regulated in National guidelines)
- Believes: providing 2nd trimester abortion is inhuman, immoral and godless refuse to be trained and to provide the services

CHALLENGES: CLIENTS

- Lack of knowledge relating pregnancy and abortion

- Unwanted pregnancy
- Recognize pregnancy late
- Delay abortion

CHALLENGES: clients

- Insufficient information relating abortion services
 - Don't know where provide services
 - Easy to access unsafe abortion services
- Money: service, transportation, decrease income during hospitalization..
- Time: interrupt studying or working

CHALLENGES: clients

- Social stigma
 - * Unmarried pregnancy: not accepted
 - * Abortion
- Religion: almost all of Vietnamese are Catholic or Buddhist
 - Both Catholicism and Buddhism not permit abortion

CONCLUSION

- 2nd trimester abortion is really necessary
- Hopefully in the near future, abortion service for 2nd trimester has become more standard, regular and easy to access in all my country.

THANK YOU !