

Women's perspectives & providers' perspectives

Ann Furedi
British Pregnancy Advisory Service

Outline

- Balancing providers' perspectives and women's perspectives on second trimester abortion;
- Differential acceptability of second trimester abortions depending on the reason for the abortion;
- Provider burn-out

Question 1

Is there really a difference between providers' perspectives and women's perspectives?

Who wants what ...

Providers

Safe: low risk of complications
Effective: it works
Supported by evidence
Predictable outcome
Cost efficient
Acceptable to clients

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Women

Access to counselling and support
Reassurance re 'things going wrong'
To 'get it over with quickly' (access)
To be unaware?
To preserve the fetus?

How do we balance these nuanced differences in providing a service?

Ideally – offer choice of method

In reality – strive to make what we can offer acceptable

Acknowledge that different women want different things and strive to manage this

Question 2

Are some second trimester abortions more acceptable than others?

Answer: Yes (although I'd like to say no!)

Good reasons

- Fetal abnormality
- Youth
- Rape/incest
- Unavoidable delay
 - problems in access
 - problems determining pregnancy

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Bad reasons

- Anything other than the good reasons

This poses a problem

Reasons why women request second trimester abortions are often outside the 'good reason' category

- difficulty making decision
- scared of procedure
- changed mind

Challenge:

to balance empathy for client with understanding of doctors education: things that seem 'trivial' aren't

Question 3

Is there provider 'burn out'?

Is there operating doctor 'burn out'

- **bpas** – just 3 doctors prepared to operate to legal limit
- Should we/can we **demand** that doctors perform procedures they feel uncomfortable about?

Our view is, we can't and should not.

Is there provider 'burn out'

Arguments:

- Too expensive
- Too risky
- Too controversial

Just generally 'more trouble than it's worth'

Not acceptable

Conclusions

- It's difficult
- It's necessary
- It may require compromises

Conclusions

- It's difficult
- It's necessary
- It may require compromises on how we deliver the service and the choice of procedure

But it would be **WRONG** and **IMMORAL** for us to compromise on the need for it

Questions ???

ann.furedi@bpas.org

www.bpas.org