

ABORTION CARE AT SUMMIT MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Our staff includes board certified physicians with extensive qualifications in women's health care, trained health educators who are prepared to offer expert counseling, and registered nurses who will be there when you need them. We're staffed, trained and equipped to expect the unexpected while giving you the individual care you have every right to demand when it concerns something as important as your medical well-being.

The decision to seek abortion care at Summit Medical Associates, P.C. is a choice we know you haven't made lightly. We also believe it should be an informed one, so you can be certain it's the right one for you. To us, that goes along with our commitment to keeping you medically and physically safe as well as mentally comfortable. And it's why we've compiled the following information to help you prepare for and understand your options concerning abortion procedures and the advantages of having it performed at Summit Medical Associates, P.C. of Atlanta.

ABORTION SERVICES

Summit Medical Associates offers abortion services by appointment up to 24 weeks from the last menstrual period (LMP). Abortions are performed under general or local anesthesia by state licensed, board certified or eligible OB-GYN physicians.

Medical (Non-surgical Abortions)

5.5 -9 weeks LMP

Non-surgical abortion (abortion by pill) is available up to 9 weeks gestation. This process requires several visits to the clinic. Two medications are used - Mifeprex (RU486), and Misoprostol. Counseling is a very important part of the medical abortion process. The Medical Abortion allows the patient to complete the abortion in the privacy and comfort of her home.

Surgical Abortions

5.0-14.5 weeks

First Trimester and Early 2nd Trimester Abortions

are performed within 5.0-14.5 weeks of your last menstrual period (LMP).

The abortion method is known as vacuum aspiration. The cervix is opened gently with a cervical dilator. The physician will use an aspirator, a medical instrument which creates suction, to gently clean the contents of the uterus. With early vacuum aspiration abortion, complications are extremely rare and the risk of injury or infection is minimal.

15-16.5 weeks

Mid Second Trimester Abortions are performed using a method called Dilation and Evacuation, which requires the cervix to be opened by insertion of dilators called laminaria. Laminaria will be inserted approximately three hours prior to your procedure, allowing the cervix to gently open so the physician can perform the procedure. The procedure lasts approximately 5-10 minutes.

17-24 weeks

Late Second Trimester Abortions requires two consecutive visits to the center. On the first day, cervical dilators called laminaria are inserted in to the cervix. The dilators will gently open the cervix overnight. The patient is required to remain in the Atlanta area during the night of dilation. The following morning, the patient will return to the center and the physician will perform the surgery. The surgery will take from 7-15 minutes, and the physician will use medical instruments to evacuate the uterus.

A one-hour recovery period is required following all surgical abortions. All patients are given an extensive pre-examination. This includes taking a complete medical history to make sure that no problems exist that would make an abortion procedure inadvisable. All patients receive an ultrasound to determine length of pregnancy, laboratory testing, which includes taking a blood sample and a urine specimen. The lab assistant will type the blood for anemia and for the Rh factor. In addition, a pregnancy test will be performed on the urine.

SOMEONE YOU CAN TURN TO

Because we recognize the personal, emotional and social pressures you may face at this time, supportive professional counseling is an integral part of the abortion procedure at Summit Medical Associates, P.C.

Our staff counselors are experienced in women's issues. They can help you explore your feelings while they accomplish the specific goals of being certain you understand the procedure, potential risks, and possible alternatives. Your initial session will include an opportunity for the counselor to answer your questions, as well as explain the consent form that you will be asked to sign.

Following the procedure, your counselor will be available to spend time with you in recovery. All you'll have to do is tell the nurse you'd like to talk with her. A final post-procedure session makes our counseling support complete.

GENERAL OR LOCAL ANESTHESIA THE DECISION IS YOURS

At Summit Medical Associates, P.C., you'll have a choice of several methods of anesthesia. All of them are considered safe and effective. It's a question of what makes you most comfortable.

Local anesthesia involves a numbing injection, much like the one you get at the dentist. You'll feel a pinch, a needle stick and then a few seconds of stinging until the drug takes effect. It's often normal to briefly experience a funny taste in your mouth or ringing in your ears. You can expect to feel a few minutes of cramps during the procedure.

Local anesthesia supplemented with intravenous sedation adds a painkiller and a tranquilizer to the numbing shot. The drugs make you feel drowsy, and your anxiety will be reduced. You'll be able to talk and will be somewhat aware of the procedure, including the brief cramping.

General anesthesia puts you into a deep sleep which eliminates any awareness of the procedure itself and prevents you from experiencing any cramping. You'll be asleep for a maximum of about 10 minutes (during which your blood pressure and pulse will be carefully monitored), and awake and talking 10 to 20 minutes later. When you first wake up, you may briefly experience blurred or double vision, a strong urge to urinate, a dry mouth and some nausea.