

# Reasons for induced abortion

Published: 12-11-2010

Last updated: 04-05-2024

The main objective of this study is to analyze women's decision making processes regarding an unintended pregnancy in order to improve the counseling (in abortion and reproductive health clinics) for these women.

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Abortions and stillbirth
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON34469

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Reasons for abortion

### Condition

- Abortions and stillbirth

### Synonym

abortion, unintended pregnancy

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Utrecht

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** ZonMw

### Intervention

**Keyword:** Decision-making processes, Induced abortion, Qualitative research, Reasons

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

- Reasons for induced abortion or continuation of pregnancy
- Indicators of doubt during the decision-making process regarding the unintended pregnancy. These indicators may be based on switching between options, ambivalent reasons/considerations, ambivalent feelings and thoughts, explicitly stated doubts, verbal expressions of regret afterwards.
- Women's doubts regarding their decision as noted by abortion doctors and FIOM counselors.

### Secondary outcome

Psychosocial functioning (these variables will be assessed in the related study 'Abortion, mental health and wellbeing: A cohort study' (title in Dutch: Psychosociale gevolgen van abortus). For a detailed description of these measures, see the protocol of the related study with registration number NL3055.097.09.

## Study description

### Background summary

At present, remarkably little is known about women's decision making processes regarding an unintended pregnancy: how do these women decide to have an abortion or to carry their pregnancy to term? Previous research has indicated that doubts in the decision-making process regarding induced abortion may enhance the risk for impaired psychosocial functioning on the longer term. Therefore, it is important to gain more insight into decision-making processes of women confronted with an unintended pregnancy, by indexing underlying reasons, considerations, doubts and ambivalent feelings/thoughts thoroughly. Further, it is important to examine whether abortion doctors perceive/recognize women's doubts regarding the abortion as they play a prominent role in the

decision process.

### **Study objective**

The main objective of this study is to analyze women's decision making processes regarding an unintended pregnancy in order to improve the counseling (in abortion and reproductive health clinics) for these women.

### **Study design**

Qualitative research through in-depth interviews. Women will be interviewed about their underlying reasons for abortion or continuation of their pregnancy and their decision-making processes regarding their unintended pregnancy. Further, the group consisting of women who underwent an abortion, will be subdivided on the basis of reported doubt regarding the abortion. Finally, through analysis of the files of abortion doctors, it will be investigated whether abortion doctors perceived/recognized potential doubts in women. These files will be compared with the files of women who finally decided to bring their pregnancy to term. Files of the latter group of women will be collected from the abortion clinics as well as from the Fiom.

### **Study burden and risks**

Participating women will have one in-depth interview with a duration of one to two hours. Talking about the abortion may pose a burden on women. To minimize the burden, interviewers will be trained to interview the women in an empathic, respectful, and nonjudgemental way.

## **Contacts**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria for all women are: 1) living in the Netherlands; 2) aged between 18-44. Further, women who underwent an abortion (approximately 3 to 6 weeks prior to the in-depth interview) in one of the participating abortion clinics are invited for participation as well as women who decided to stay pregnant after their initial visit to the abortion clinic or to the FIOM.

### Exclusion criteria

Women will be excluded from participation if: 1) abortion was on medical grounds (embryonal or foetal abnormalities or health risks for the mother); 2) women's ability to express themselves in the Dutch language is insufficient; 3) cognitively not able to be interviewed

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Other

## Recruitment

NL  
Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped  
Start date (anticipated): 15-11-2010  
Enrollment: 120  
Type: Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO  
Date: 12-11-2010  
Application type: First submission  
Review commission: METIGG: Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie Instellingen Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg (Utrecht)

## Study registrations

### Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

### Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

## In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL32869.097.10