

HEALTH & SCIENCE

“Plan C – The Missed Period Pill – Menstrual Regulation”



Michael Cook, editor of Mercatornet.com, wrote an article on December 7, 2020 on how the abortion industry is now promoting a new type of ‘contraception’ – the Missed Period Pill (MPP). During the Bangladeshi war for independence, thousands of women were raped. Abortion was illegal, so the Bangladeshi government allowed “evacuation of the uterus for a limited period – as long as the women did not have a pregnancy test. The euphemism for it was “menstrual regulation (MR).”” [Note: Plan C, MPP or MR – contain the same ingredients as the abortion pill: mifepristone and misoprostol, with the same side effects and risks.]

Cook reported the journal *Contraception* ran an article in its December 1, 2020 edition publishing the results “of a survey seeking the views of American “people” (women, presumably). The people were asked whether they would be interested in a pill which would bring on bleeding like a menstrual period, and which would terminate the pregnancy for nearly all people who were pregnant. The key point is that they would never know whether or not they had been pregnant. They found that 42% of all participants and 70% of those who would be unhappy if they were pregnant, would be interested in the MPP.”

The researchers involved in the survey noted that even after so many years of abortion advocacy women are still “conflicted.” A *New York Times* op-ed by Patrick Adams on December 3, 2020 noted, “One participant said that such a service would be “a psychological cushion” for those women “who may be unsure of their own feelings on abortion.” Another said that she thought it would result “in less moral conflict,” and a third that she would feel “less guilty of my choice.”” The piece by Adams went on to state, “The notion behind MR – that a person wouldn’t know if she had an abortion and therefore no one else could know if she did, either – is, in one sense, the antithesis of what many in the reproductive rights movement hope to achieve.”

Cook noted that the authors of the *Contraception* article attribute the deep psychological suffering after abortion to stigma, not, as Cook said, “to the obvious fact that a life has been ended.” The authors of the *Contraception* article acknowledged the effects of abortion: “...anxiety, stress, depression, social isolation, negative self-evaluation and somatic symptoms.” Cook continued, “How can this be avoided? They have a

technology fix: by taking a pill.” The *Contraception* authors concluded, “Thus, a service that enables people to ensure they are not pregnant without knowing their initial pregnancy status could have psychological and physical benefits.”

The website naturalwomanhood.org contains a post dated 1/16/21 regarding Missed Period Pills. The post states, “In addition to the ethical concerns Missed Period Pills share with other abortifacient drugs, Missed Period Pills pose additional ethical problems for patients. First, while advocates of Missed Period Pills emphasize the convenience of sidestepping patients’ concerns with abortion, there is an element of informed consent that is obscured when a patient is given a drug without full knowledge of the exact function it is completing. Also, to expose patients to side effects and adverse health effects of abortifacient drugs, when they might not even have a pregnancy to terminate, raises numerous ethical problems regarding exposure to risk. Further, the potential psychological benefits of keeping patients ignorant of whether the drug is ending a pregnancy are speculative based on patients’ survey responses; it remains unclear if after taking the abortifacient the patient may feel the same mixed feelings. Past surveys have found many women want to know if their contraceptives cause abortions. Further, it’s possible that some patients could later experience the mixed feelings that come with ending a pregnancy, even when a pregnancy hasn’t in fact been ended.”

A 2/16/21 post on the pregnancyhelpnews.com website, which is managed by Heartbeat International, noted that “While for the purposes of the study, the women were specifically told, “If you were pregnant, they [the MPP] would terminate the pregnancy in almost all women,” that is certainly not how the pills are marketed. They are marketed as menstruation management, even in the title of this study; they are not marketed specifically as abortifacients...will doctors or abortion clinic workers be telling women up front that these pills induce an abortion if you’re late for your period because you’re pregnant? How is it fair to innocently ignorant women to shamelessly market explicitly abortifacient drugs as anything but abortifacients?” The writer explained that in her work with Option Line, she has come across many women who sincerely do not know the very basic facts concerning menstrual cycles and pregnancy. The writer asks, “How are “missed period pills” empowering to women? Marketing them preys on ignorance and exploits moral ambiguity...Additionally, women who take these pills without exploring why their period is late have not been empowered to be more informed about their body or the numerous other medical resources available to them to address the reason(s) for being late. These are real health concerns [ectopic pregnancy, PCOS, etc.], not just fear-mongering...Abortion advocates singing the praises of missed period pills and marketing them as an easy fix to a missed period does absolutely nothing to further women’s quality of health care or empower them to make truly informed decisions about their fertility and family planning.”