

Why MTPs Are Needed

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP)

Intentional or voluntary termination of pregnancy before full term. (Also known as induced abortion).

Global Scale: 45–50 million MTPs are performed every year worldwide (approx. 1/5 of all conceived pregnancies).

Reason 1: Unprotected Intercourse



Unwanted pregnancy due to casual, unprotected intercourse.

Clinical Distinction

MTP is intentional and induced by a medical procedure. Do not confuse it with a **spontaneous abortion (miscarriage)**, which is an unintentional, natural loss of pregnancy.

Reason 2: Contraceptive Failure



Unwanted pregnancy due to the failure of contraceptives used during coitus.

The Honest Framing of Contraception

Even ideal contraceptives have failure rates. They are medical tools to prevent a natural event.

When primary prevention fails, MTP acts as a secondary medical response.



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Reason 3: Pregnancy Due to Rape



Pregnancies resulting from rape, recognizing the severe mental and physical trauma involved.

Exam Trap: MTP vs. Amniocentesis Misuse

Do not mix up legal MTP with illegal female foeticide. Amniocentesis is a diagnostic test (sampling amniotic fluid for genetic disorders) that is illegally misused for sex determination. MTP in the context of rape is a legally protected medical intervention.

Reason 4: Harmful or Fatal Pregnancies

Cases where continuation of pregnancy would be harmful or fatal to the mother, the foetus, or both.



Maternal Risk

Risk to the life, or grave injury to the physical/mental health of the pregnant woman.



Foetal Risk

Substantial risk that, if born, the child would suffer from serious physical or mental abnormalities.

The Ethical & Medical Context (MTP Act)

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (1971, Amended 2017).

Trimester Safety & Legal Rule

0–12 weeks

13–24 weeks

> 24 weeks

First Trimester Relatively Safe

Requires opinion of 1 RMP
(Registered Medical
Practitioner)

Second Trimester Riskier

Requires opinion of 2
RMPs in good faith

Third Trimester Not permitted



NEET Exam Lock

Remember the serious medical and social reasons for MTP.
(Unprotected coitus, contraceptive failure, rape, fatal/harmful risks).

Q: Which trimester is considered medically safe for MTP?

A: First Trimester (up to 12 weeks).

Q: What year was MTP legalized in India to reduce illegal maternal mortality?

A: 1971.



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