

## **Supporting documentation for Vellacott's contention of abortion's harm to women**

The book "Women's Health After Abortion: The Medical and Psychological Evidence" published by the deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research is posted online, and you can find a summary of each chapter at this link: <http://www.deveber.org/text/whealth.html#one>

Issues related to future fertility, infections, uterine perforations, etc. can be found in chapter 5. The link to breast cancer is found in chapter 2. Further research regarding the abortion/breast cancer link can be found at: <http://www.abortionbreastcancer.ca/theresearch.htm>

The link to future pre-term birth is found in chapter 4 (see also study cited below.)

At this link you can find a summary paper on the impact of induced abortion on women's subsequent mental and physical health: <http://www.deveber.org/summary-womens-health-after-abortion>

You can find each chapter of the book online here: <http://www.deveber.org/womens-health-after-abortion>

A number of studies have shown that induced abortion is associated with future pre-term birth. A recent systematic review of the evidence was done by researchers at U of T and is attached ("Induced termination of pregnancy and low birthweight and preterm birth: a systematic review and meta-analyses"). The researchers conclude that "A previous I-TOP (induced termination of pregnancy) is associated with a significantly increased risk of LBW (low birth weight) and PT (preterm) but not SGA (small for gestational age). The risk increased as the number of I-TOP increased."

I am also attaching a study from the Journal of Psychiatric Research in which researchers Coleman et.al. found that "Abortion was found to be related to an increased risk of a variety of mental health problems (panic attacks, panic disorder, agoraphobia, PTSD, bipolar disorder, major depression with or without hierarchy) and substance abuse disorders after statistical controls were instituted for a wide range of personal, situational and demographic variables."

I am also attaching a study published in the British Journal of Psychiatry by Ferguson et. al. entitled "Abortion and Mental Health Disorders: Evidence from

a 30-year Longitudinal Study." The researchers concluded: "After adjustment for confounding, abortion was associated with a small increase in the risk of mental disorders; women who had abortions had rates of mental disorder that were about 30% higher. There were no consistent associations between other pregnancy outcomes and mental health. Estimates of attributable risk indicated that exposure to abortion accounted for 1.5% to 5.5% of the overall rate of mental disorders."

A comprehensive list of physical and psychological side effects of abortion, including research citations can be found at <http://www.abortionincanada.ca/health/index.html>

There are many more studies which could be cited, but this will give you an idea of some of the research out there.

And finally, regarding Maurice Vellacott's comments related to "abortion as part of a male agenda," an article by Richard Stith, "Her Choice, Her Problem: How Abortion Empowers Men" provides an interesting perspective on abortion. See: <http://www.firstthings.com/article/2009/07/her-choice-her-problem>