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UCSF News

By University of California, San Francisco

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Information: Donna Chaban

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**EARLY ABORTION-MENSTRUAL INDUCTION
PROCEDURE AT UCSF**

A young woman suspects that she may have become pregnant during the preceding month. She is apprehensive, not wanting to have a child. She feels she will want an abortion.

Normally, this young woman would have to wait about two weeks after a missed menstrual period for confirmation of pregnancy by a standard test. Now, however, under a new program at the University of California, San Francisco, she is encouraged to see her doctor immediately--within one week after her period was due. Following careful counseling, she undergoes a brief procedure during which her uterus is aspirated with a small suction tube. If she is indeed pregnant, the procedure constitutes a very early abortion; if not, it is simply a way of inducing her belated period.

The use of the suction abortion technique before pregnancy represents new thinking among obstetricians and gynecologists. At UCSF, a team of researchers headed by Dr. Alan Margolis, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Dr. Sadja Goldsmith, Clinical Instructor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is looking into both the medical feasibility and the patient's acceptance of the menstrual induction/early abortion procedure.

"Medically," says Dr. Margolis, "suction aspiration of the uterus has already been established as a safe and uncomplicated method of abortion when done early in pregnancy. The procedure does not require dilation of the cervix and is done under local anesthesia. It is

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