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# The abortifacient effects of a newly developed vaginal silastic device impregnated with an 0.5% concentration of 15(s)-15-methyl-prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub> methyl ester in the first trimester

Niels H. Lauersen, M.D. • Kathleen H. Wilson, B.S. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/0010-7824\(76\)90121-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/0010-7824(76)90121-9)



## Abstract

Abortion was successfully induced in 15 of 20 patients from the 6th to the 12th week of gestation by intravaginal insertion of a newly developed silastic device containing an 0.5% concentration of 15(S)-15-methyl-prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub> methyl ester. The mean abortion time for the 15 successful abortions was 11.33 hours, and multiparous patients aborted in a significantly faster mean time 7.33 hours, as compared to nulliparous patients, mean time 15.90 hours. The five patients who failed to abort with the prostaglandin all developed uterine activity and experienced cervical changes in conjunction with the prostaglandin administration. Abortion was achieved in these 5 patients by suction aspiration without the need for mechanical dilatation of the cervix or anesthesia. Fourteen patients in the study were premedicated with antiemetic and antidiarrheal drugs and 4 of the 14 experienced gastro-intestinal side effects. Six patients were not premedicated and all 6 developed gastro-intestinal side effects related to the prostaglandin administration. This technique of abortion induction was well tolerated and had good patient acceptance. Induction of abortion during the first trimester by intravaginal administration of a silastic device containing 15-ME-PGF<sub>2α</sub> could offer a valid alternative to the surgical interruption of pregnancy. The prostaglandin silastic device could also be employed along with surgical techniques to provide for a gradual softening and dilatation of the cervix thus eliminating the need for mechanical cervical dilatation with its potential of cervical damage leading to cervical incompetence and prematurity.

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