

Increasing Access to Medical Abortion in EE/CA Countries

FIGO Workshop
Bishkek, Kirgizstan
May 23-24, 2016

About Gynuity Health Projects

- A research and technical assistance organization dedicated to the idea that all people should have access to the fruits of medical science and technology
- Our goal is to make reproductive health technologies widely available at reasonable cost, provided in the context of high-quality services, and offered in a way that recognizes the dignity and autonomy of each individual.

Programs of work

- **Medical abortion**
- Contraception
- Post-partum hemorrhage
- Pre-eclampsia
- Pregnancy failure and miscarriage
- STI / HIV / Infectious disease

Collaborating countries in EE/CA

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- **Georgia***
- Kazakhstan
- **Moldova***
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan

* Longest collaborations

Collaborative activities

- Research – clinical studies, evaluation of services, KAP surveys
- Training of medical providers
- Expansion of MA services outside of the capital
- Development of information, educational, informational (IEC) materials for women
- Technical assistance on development of national MA guidelines
- Dissemination and regional meetings

Collaboration with Georgia

- Completed 4 clinical studies; 1 ongoing study
- Held 2 roundtable and 3 dissemination meetings
- Trained 169 doctors at 7 trainings
- Provided technical assistance to MOH on the development of national guidelines
- Developed and distributed IEC materials
- Evaluated services at former research sites
- National guidelines updated for 1st trimester MA and developed for 2nd trimester MA

Ongoing activities

Outpatient MA through 77 days of gestation

- Objective: To compare efficacy among women with 64-70 days' to 71-77 days' gestation
- Mifepristone 200 mg with option of home administration followed by misoprostol 800 μ g buccal 24-48 hours later
- Multi-site study
- Target enrollment of 75
- Special considerations: acceptability of method among women and providers

Collaboration with Moldova

- First country in region we collaborated with (2003)
- First clinical study in 2005, since completed 8 studies
- Providers became confident with method, and became MA pioneers and advocates
- Critical mass of MA patients spreading the good information and increasing demand
- Generated data for official approval of method, eventually resulting in the establishment of national standards
- Contributed to the institutionalization of medical abortion in the country

Ongoing activities

Simplified Medical Abortion Screening

- Use of pelvic exam and/or ultrasound to assess eligibility of MA limits access to MA
- Objective: To collect pilot data on safety and acceptability of MA without pre-abortion ultrasound or exam in women with reliable menstrual history
- Multi-site study
- Target enrollment 150

Activities in other EE/CA countries

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Kazakhstan