



# SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS & GYNAECOLOGISTS OF PAKISTAN

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## **SOGP Position Paper on access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Services**

### **“MISCARRIAGE MANAGEMENT AS A RIGHT TO LIFE & HEALTH”**

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan is a nationwide Professional association of Obstetricians, Gynaecologists and health professionals working on maternal health. Since its inception SOGP's one point agenda is preventing maternal & neonatal morbidity and mortality. In collaboration with Government, sister professional organizations, civil society, SOGP is working hard to improve maternal health and achieve MDG5 in Pakistan.

Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Pakistan believes that reproductive healthcare is a basic human right and that when women and men are given control over their reproductive lives; they are able to significantly improve the health and welfare of their families and communities. Therefore, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan has adopted the position/policy on comprehensive reproductive health care services in consultation with our SOGP members.

- Reproductive healthcare is a basic human right.
- There should be a universal access to modern methods of Family Planning (Birth Spacing) services.
- Unsafe abortion practices (Backdoor) should be condemned as it is directly responsible for 13 percent of maternal mortality. This totally preventable morbidity and mortality affects poor and vulnerable groups of women.
- The term abortion should be replaced by **Miscarriages** as also recommended by Royal College.  
(Green top Guideline no. 25 RCOG  
<http://www.rcog.org.uk/files/rcog-corp/uploaded-files/GT25ManagementofEarlyPregnancyLoss2006.pdf>)
- **Miscarriage is health issue and a woman has absolute right on herself!** So a pregnant woman's decision to complete or terminate a pregnancy should be considering on sympathetically and humanitarian grounds.



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- Every pregnancy interrupted by miscarriages should be **according to the law of state (Pakistan) i.e. to save the life of the woman or to provide necessary treatment to her.**
- **Miscarriage care procedure** should be carried out by **WHO standard technique and protocols** under safe, sterile conditions, by trained, competent professionals in order to protect the life, health and future fertility of the patient.
- Miscarriage-related services should be standardized and women **should be offered medical methods or MVA. D&E under general anesthesia should never be first line treatment for miscarriage.**
- **Counseling for Family planning methods should be offered to women in antenatal/postnatal and Gynae clinics** and SOGP **strongly supports all programs that will promote contraceptive use** in order to reduce rates of unwanted/unplanned pregnancy.
- **Incorporation of Post abortion care in continuum of care.**
- **Inclusion of EmOC including Post abortion care in the curriculum of medical colleges, nursing schools and paramedics training centers.**

*Access to miscarriage care and family planning services will have a dramatic positive impact on women's health in general and on maternal and infant mortality in particular. As an organization dedicated to the advancement of women's health, **SOGP supports access to safe and legal miscarriage as part of comprehensive reproductive health care for all women.***

**Prof. Lubna Hassan**

President SOGP