First Trimester Abortion: Over 14 years of Medical Abortion Experience in Tunisia Using Mifepristone and Misoprostol

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Medical abortion offers a safe, effective, and acceptable means for terminating pregnancy. In 2001, Tunisia became the first country in Africa and MENA to introduce mifepristone-misoprostol medical abortion. The national protocol uses 200mg oral mifepristone followed two days later by 400 mcg misoprostol taken sublingually for pregnancies up to 63 days LMP. Access to this “to touch” method was initially limited to 10 regions, but later expanded to all family planning clinics in all 24 regions of the country. Since its introduction, ongoing clinical and operational research projects carried out by ONFP in collaboration with Gynuity have introduced a series of innovations, including home use of misoprostol, extension in gestational age eligibility, and most recently options for simplifying follow-up, including at home semi-quantitative pregnancy tests. Medical abortion is today the primary abortion method (70%) in the public sector and the majority of services are offered by midwives as an example of the importance of task shifting.

This presentation will discuss the 14 year experience in Tunisia of introducing and expanding medical abortion through clinical and operations research.