



Suction D&C

What is a Suction D&C?

A Suction D&C (dilatation and curettage) is a minor procedure to empty the uterus of pregnancy tissue after a miscarriage. In this procedure, mechanical cervical dilator may be used to dilate the cervix first, to allow a thin long cannula (around 7-10mm diameter) to be inserted into the uterus.

What to expect after Suction D&C?

You will go home the same day after you have recovered from the general anaesthetic. There can be mild vaginal bleeding for up to 10 days after the procedure which is not a cause for concern. You may also experience mild period-pain-like cramps. Heat-packs, paracetamol and ibuprofen can all be helpful to relieve the short-term discomfort after the procedure.

What are the risks of Suction D&C?

A Suction D&C generally safe. Occasionally, injury may occur to the uterus or cervix during the procedure (uterine perforation), which does not usually require any treatment and will heal by itself. Rarely, there can be injury beyond the perforation to internal organs such as bladder, bowel or blood vessels. These injuries may require a further operation through the abdomen to repair (either at the time of operation or later down the track). Uncommonly, some pregnancy tissue or blood clots can be retained in the uterus and rarely may need a repeat suction D&C to remove. Infection, bleeding and reactions to the anaesthesia are some of the adverse effects rarely observed in few individuals.

What should I do if I experience any problems during my recovery period?

You should seek immediate medical attention by going to the emergency department of your closest hospital or by contacting me if you experience any of the below mentioned conditions:

- Fever
- Heavy vaginal bleeding
- Severe abdominal pain
- Offensive vaginal discharge