



MEDICOLEGAL BULLETIN

Week 13:MTP Act – Common Medicolegal Pitfalls Every Gynecologist Must Know

1. REAL LIFE CLINICAL SCENARIO

A 19-year-old unmarried woman presented with an unwanted pregnancy of approximately 18 weeks. After counselling, MTP was performed. Months later a complaint alleged inadequate consent, incorrect gestational age assessment and incomplete statutory documentation. Although the procedure was uneventful, documentation became the central medicolegal issue.

2. MEDICOLEGAL RISKS IN SUCH CASES

Common allegations include incorrect gestational age assessment, invalid consent, breach of confidentiality, inadequate documentation, failure to comply with the MTP Act, poor record maintenance and confusion between MTP Act and POCSO obligations.

3. WHAT THE LAW EXPECTS

Doctors should comply with the MTP Act and current Rules. Courts expect valid consent, legal indication, accurate gestational age assessment, confidentiality and complete statutory documentation.

4. DOCUMENTATION – THE DOCTOR'S STRONGEST DEFENSE

Maintain patient identification, history, gestational age assessment, indication, counselling notes, consent, procedure details, follow-up advice and all statutory forms.



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5. PRACTICAL SAFE PRACTICE – WHAT TO DO

Verify gestational age, counsel thoroughly, maintain confidentiality, complete statutory forms immediately, document every discussion and arrange follow-up

6. COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Incomplete consent, poor documentation, wrong gestational age, confidentiality breaches, incomplete statutory forms and misunderstanding legal requirements.

7. CLINICAL–LEGAL PEARL

A Good clinical care must always be supported by good legal compliance

8. REAL COURT CASE INSIGHTS (FOR UNDERSTANDING)

Courts generally protect doctors when the procedure is legally indicated, consent is valid and records are complete. Most litigation results from documentation failures rather than technical errors.

9. TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

Safe MTP practice requires clinical competence, informed consent, confidentiality and meticulous documentation.

Next Week's Topic: POCSO Act – Medicolegal Responsibilities of Every Obstetrician and Gynecologist



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