

Abortion: Self-medication can kill you

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When 19-year old college student Vinita (name changed) discovered that she was a few weeks pregnant recently, she feared going to a gynaecologist and went to a local general practitioner instead who gave her the medical abortion pill. She bled profusely for 12 days after taking the pill. She was finally admitted to a Bandra nursing home where doctors

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If they aren't (taken under supervision), it is as good as getting abortion done by a quack

Dr Piyush Goyal

removed her foetus completely. She could have lost her life.

Medical abortion pills are prescription drugs that are

different from emergency contraceptive pills. They are taken between 7-9 weeks of pregnancy and cause the embryo to be expelled from the uterus.

Last year, state-run hospitals in Mumbai treated 39 cases of complications resulting from the indiscriminate use of such pills. Of these, 22 cases were of incomplete abortion, while four cases could have been fatal.

Last month, the state gov-

ernment declared that it wanted to regulate the casual dispensal of medical abortion pills in the city. However, women rights activists protested claiming that regulation would infringe on a woman's right to abortion.

"The law states that this is a prescription pill only," said Dr Rekha Daver, head of department, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, JJ hospital.

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