Research is needed to evaluate analgesia requirements for women undergoing surgical abortion under local anaesthesia and the effect on acceptability. In addition, there is a need to assess the cost implications of this approach in comparison to other methods. A randomised controlled trial conducted in Aberdeen comparing sublingual to vaginal administration of misoprostol 400 μg in the context of cervical priming prior to surgical abortion and showed similar efficacy and good patient acceptability. The sublingual route was used in this study to allow self-administration at home prior to hospital admission, thus minimising the duration of time needed to be in hospital and to allow an optimal priming interval prior to surgery.

Conclusions
This study suggests that surgical abortion using MVA under local anaesthesia is effective and acceptable to women. These findings now need to be assessed in the context of a randomised trial.

Acknowledgements
The authors wish to thank Louise Craigie and Morag McBain from the Pregnancy Advisory Service and the staff in Day Surgery Theatre, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for their contribution to this study.

Statements on funding and competing interests
Funding. None identified.
Competing interests. None identified.

References

Book Reviews


I became interested in this book after hearing about the controversy surrounding one of its editors, W. David Hager, who was nominated by President Bush to chair the US Food and Drug Administration’s panel on reproductive health care, sparking a national outcry from liberals. The Reproduction Revolution comprises chapters from 31 contributors and three editors, mostly working in reproductive health or education and all coming from a conservative Christian perspective. They discuss assisted reproduction at length, but also explore reproductive cloning, surrogacy, contraception, abortion, Viagra® and sexual mores in US society. A fascinating picture emerges of a country whose wealth and enthusiasm for technological advance combine with a lack of consistent regulation from state to state to make most things possible. A myriad of bizarre and disturbing legal cases illustrate the wisdom that not everything that can be done should be done.

The authors respond with the repeated assertion that sex and reproduction were ordained as gifts to society. A fascinating picture emerges of a country that has turned its back on God, and yet has found, in the absence of a moral compass, a way to walk through the moral minefield of human reproduction. The Haynes Workshop Manuals are known for their clear, practical step-by-step guide to women’s health, for men and offers a similar style of content to make the information accessible to the lay reader. The book is divided into chapters covering the major systems in the body. These are labelled as parts of a car, which makes it more difficult for me to understand, but then I am not the target audience. The content is comprehensive and very detailed. There are lots of useful contact addresses for a wide range of organisations. The book includes a lot of information that is pertinent to men’s health as well. It would be a helpful book for lay readers – both male and female – as a reference guide and for general information.

Reviewed by Henrietta Hughes, MRCGP, DFFP, GP, London, UK