

fortunately, has developed ways to manipulate biology so that abortions no longer have to require the mechanical disruption of the cervix or uterus.

Beginning from 1992 to today, surgical abortions result in much less stress and trauma. Because as opposed to forcing a woman's cervix open, we now utilize the *gemeprost* and *misoprostol* hormones to help soften and dilate the cervix; this mimics the genital movements that can be found during actual childbirth, and these natural stimulations then create a lesser threat to the woman. And similarly in 2001, the progesterone hormone was determined as a contributing role to maintaining pregnancies, later paving way for the drug *mifepristone*. Mifepristone is a drug that was developed to assist a woman who wished to terminate her pregnancy by shutting off the effect of the progesterone, which would then render the woman's body completely unable to maintain her pregnancy. This drug is often used congruently with the aforementioned cervical-softening hormones (*gemeprost* and *misoprostol*), and was thus antecedent to the procedure for medical abortion.

A new study led by Gordon Smith from the University of Cambridge, moreover, has provided research that exemplifies how the number of defective pregnancies and/or birth following abortion has progressively decreased since the 1980's; from 2000 onwards, the strong risk factor for such circumstances is virtually nonexistent. The novel successes of our technological advancements also show growing favor in recent statistics: utilization of medical abortion has increased gradually from 18 percent to 68 percent from 1992 to 2008; and surgical abortions without hormonal preparation of the cervix has decreased exponentially from 31 percent to 0.4 percent. Although there is still widespread concern that abortion is a causal factor to infertility, miscarriages, and risky births, studies have shown that the mortality rate for woman who have surgical and medical abortion procedures has decreased drastically. In fact,