



*Challenges to providing
medical abortion to Baltic
States*

Vadimas Grebinskis

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Tbilisi, Georgia

Topics to be discussed

- ◆ *General overview of situation*
- ◆ *Reasons for “exclusiveness” of the situation in Lithuania*
- ◆ *Religious “fundamentalism” – reasons and examples of increasing influence*
- ◆ *History of medical abortion (MA) in Lithuania*
- ◆ *Prospects for improving the situation*





Estonia



- ◆ MA is officially permitted since 2005
- ◆ Mifepriston was registered in 2005
- ◆ MA is provided in outpatient settings, including private clinics
- ◆ MA is permitted until 9 weeks gestational age (63 days LMP)
- ◆ Average number of medical abortion per year - 850 (in 2007–866, or 31,2% of all legal artificial abortions)
- ◆ Cost of MA procedure – 32 EUR for insured (all working) women
- ◆ *Dominating Religious Confession – Protestantism*
- ◆ *Estonia is considered as the least religious country of Europe*

Latvia



- ◆ MA is officially permitted since 2007.
- ◆ Mifepriston is registered in 2007.
- ◆ MA is provided at 5 private clinics.
- ◆ MA is permitted up to 7 weeks gestational age
- ◆ Number of MA conducted per year ... (no statistics)
- ◆ Cost of MA procedure 175-200 EURO
- ◆ Dominating Religious Confession – Protestantism



Lithuania



- ◆ MA is not officially permitted
- ◆ Mifepriston is not registered
- ◆ MA is not provided at inpatient departments, polyclinics and private clinics
- ◆ MA is not permitted despite gestational age
- ◆ 0 MA procedures are conducted per year
- ◆ Cost of the procedure is not determined
- ◆ Dominating Religious Confession – Catholicism

Reasons for «exclusiveness» of situation in Lithuania. Demography?



- ◆ *Population size 3,4 millions*
- ◆ *Capital city Vilnius 544 000*
- ◆ *Urban population 68%*
- ◆ *Increase of population size - 0,279%*
- ◆ *Birth rate: 9 na 1000*
- ◆ *Mortality: 11,12 na 1000*
- ◆ *Migration level: - 0,72 per 1000*
- ◆ *Life expectancy:*
 - *Average 75 years*
 - *Men 70 years*
 - *Women 80 years*



Reasons for «exclusiveness» of situation in Lithuania. Reproductive Health?

Maternal mortality:

- *11 per 100 000 deliveries*

Infant mortality:

- *Total 6,47 per 1000 live births*

- *Boys 7,73 ->- ->-*

- *Girls 5,13 ->- ->-*

Abortions:

Per 1000 live births in 2007 Γ – 327 (in 1995 – 712)

9456 artificial ones in 2007

23% - of age of 25-29 years (3123)

8,2% - ->- 15-19 years (1206)

Mortality as a result of abortion – 0%

Reasons of «exclusiveness» of the situation in Lithuania



Religious Confessions:

- Catholics 79%
- Orthodox Christians 8%
- Protestants 1,9%
- Others 5,5%
- Atheists 5,6%



Reproductive Legislation: Problems


- ◆ There is no law, policy or program for reproductive health, including lack of sexual education
- ◆ Conducting of abortions is regulated by the order of the minister M3 (1994 г.)
- ◆ Conception of Family Policy, considering protection of life from the moment of conception
- ◆ Draft law on protection on prenatal phase is being debated at the Parliament
- ◆ Significant part of specialists rejects conducting of abortions due to moral – ethic considerations
- ◆ Proposal of episcopacy regarding exclusion from curriculum of students – doctors procedures of abortions and artificial impregnation due to religious considerations




Reproductive Legislation: Causes of the Problems

- ◆ The church is categorically against abortions (including MA), contraception and sexual education
- ◆ Exclusive influence of the church on state political level
- ◆ Politicization of issues of abortion
- ◆ Scandalous declaration of Pope of Rome regarding harm of condoms during his visit in Africa in 2009
- ◆ Representative of teachers in elaboration of Concept of Family Policy – headmaster of Catholic classical school
- ◆ Advisor of Prime Minister – Leader of Organization – Pro-life with Catholic education
- ◆ Conducting medical abortion is obstructed by the congregation
- ◆ Debates become more active before elections (practically on all levels)
Agitation of the church for «loyal» candidates becomes stronger

Issue of Medical Abortion



**VALSTYBINĖ VAISTŲ KONTROLĖS TARNYBA**
PRIE LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS
SVEIKATOS APSAUGOS MINISTERIJOS

UAB "Medisana"
T. Kosciūškos 17/1
2001 Vilnius

2002-05-17 Nr. 01/2-465

DĖL MEDICININIŲ PREPARATŲ REGISTRAVIMO



Gerb. ponai,

Informuojame, kad 2002 05 08 Vaistų registracijos centro (VRC) posėdyje nutarta registruoti Jūsų atstovaujamos firmos *Exelgyn, France* preparatą *Mifegyne* (tablets 200 mg). Mokestis už vaisto ekspertizę ir registraciją - 7600 Lt.
Akreipiame dėmesį, kad mokėtojas turi apmokėti visas banko paslaugas.

P pinigų, nurodant mūsų rašto, pagal kurį deromas pavedimas, numerį, prašome pervesti:
Valstybinė vaistų kontrolės tarnyba
AB "Vilniaus bankas" Vilniaus filialas
Kodas 260101777
Sąskaitos Nr. 1142821

Pervedus pinigus, igaliotą atstovą maloniai kviečiame į VRC atsiimti sąskaitos-faktūros originalą ir registravimo liudijimą.
Sąskaita turi būti apmokėta per 3 mėnesius nuo jos išrašymo datos. Priešingu atveju, nutarimas preparatą registruoti bus anuliuojamas.

Pagarbiai,

Viršinkinkas   Vytautas Budnikas

E.Vagorienė, 212 66 77

Kodas 9135186 Traktų g. 14 Tel. (8-22) 63 92 64 El. paštas: vvk@vvk.lt
LT-2001 Vilnius Faks. (8-22) 63 92 64

2000– beginning of the process of registration of Mifepriston (Mifegin) in Lithuania

- ◆ On 17 May 2002 SMCA made decision on registration
- ◆ June 2002 – decision on «inadmissibility of medical abortion due to ethic considerations» (religious – ethic)

Prospective for improvement of situation: objectives and opportunities

- ◆ Sharing international best practice
- ◆ Establishment of national leadership for conducting safe abortions (including MA)
- ◆ Definition and elimination of restrictions in current policy and practice of healthcare
- ◆ Provide access to service providers to appropriate equipment and/or to necessary medicaments
- ◆ Permit additional categories of doctors in field of reproductive health to conduct MA
- ◆ Inform women regarding their legal rights and opportunities



Your questions?



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