

UTERINE DAMAGE

The August 1989 edition of *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* contains an article entitled, "The frequency and management of uterine perforations during first-trimester abortions". In this laparoscopic study, three noted abortionists concede that uterine perforations from routine first trimester abortions happen seven times more often than previously thought. After performing early suction abortions on 708 women, the authors inserted the laparoscope through the abdominal wall to observe the female organs. The camera picked up what often goes unnoticed, and the three abortionists conclude: "most uterine perforations go unrecognized and untreated." Perforations of the uterus are dangerous not only because they may provoke life-threatening internal bleeding, but because they are capable of leaving scar tissue in the womb that may "blow out" during a subsequent pregnancy. Though hard numbers are hard to come by, the article estimates that approximately 2% of all first-trimester abortions result in a perforated uterus.