

van Oppenraaij RH, Jauniaux E, Christiansen OB, Horcajadas JA, Farquharson RG, Exalto N; ESHRE Special Interest Group for Early Pregnancy (SIGEP). Predicting adverse obstetric outcome after early pregnancy events and complications: a review. Human Reproduction Update Advance Access 7 March 2009;1(1):1-13

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This is a review of 75 scientific studies between 1980 and 2008, looking at how various first trimester complications of a pregnancy impact the subsequent pregnancy. With regard to induced abortion: A single termination raised the risk of preterm birth in the next pregnancy by 20%. Two or more increased the risk by 90%. And women who have had more than one abortion double their risk of having a “very” premature baby - classed as being born before 34 weeks.

Lead researcher Dr Robbert van Oppenraaij said: “It can be concluded that a history of abortion is associated with an increased risk for premature delivery and very premature delivery.”