## <sup>1</sup>Post Abortion Stress Checklist

Many times, women who have had abortions in the recent or distant past experience physical and emotional repercussions. Since there is almost always a delay between the time of the abortion event and the onset of reactions, women are often unaware that these feelings may be related to a past abortion.

Emotional/Psychological Effects	
	Sense of loss (Unidentifiable sadness)
	Regret and remorse
	Feeling of numbness
	Preoccupation with death
	Depression
	Self-esteem loss/ Hatred of self
	Anger
	Volatile rage
	Despair
	Sense of helplessness
	Fear of failure
	Preoccupation with "would-be" due date or birth month
	Intense interest in babies
	Interruption in bonding process with present or future children
	Re-experience the abortion
	Thwarted maternal instincts
	Avoiding situations with pregnant women
	or babies
	Remembering the death date
	Self-destructive behaviors
	Alcohol or substance abuse
	Nightmares
	Suicidal impulses/thoughts

	Guilt
	Loss of confidence in decision making
Physical Effects	
	Repeated unplanned pregnancies
	(Replacement babies)
	Miscarriages, premature births
	Menstrual disturbances
	Crying/sighing
	Loss of appetite
	Eating disorders
	Weight loss/gain
	Loss of interest in sex
	Sleeplessness
	Exhaustion
	Constant swallowing
	Nervousness
	Decreased work capacity
	Vomiting
	Gastro-intestinal disturbances
	Frigidity/other sexual
	Promiscuous behavior
	Sexual addiction

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