



Having a dilapan rod put into the cervix

**Tena koutou katoa, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni, Ni Sa Bula
Vinaka,
Greetings and Welcome to National Women's**

This leaflet is about having a Dilapan Rod put into the cervix (the neck or entrance to the uterus) to terminate your pregnancy.

As you will already have been informed, termination of pregnancy does carry a small risk of damage to the cervix or uterus.

This risk is greater when the pregnancy is over 13 weeks.

If one or two Dilapan rods are inserted into the cervix for several hours before the termination procedure, tearing and damage is much less likely to happen because the Dilapan rods have gradually swollen to painlessly open and soften the cervix.

The rods do this by absorbing fluid from the cervix. The termination is then made safer and faster for you.

It is important to be 100% certain of your decision about termination before the rods are inserted. Although the rods can be removed, the health of the pregnancy, the foetus, or the woman may be at risk if the pregnancy continues. Once the Dilapan rod or rods have been inserted, the possible long-term effects on the pregnancy and the foetus are unknown.

Risk of infection

While the rod is in place in the cervix, it is important to immediately report any chill, temperature, severe pain, leakage of fluid or heavy bleeding. Under no circumstances should the rod ever be left in the cervix more than 24 hours, or serious infection may develop.