Appendix B: PAC treatment options

| Methods | Expectant Management | Electric Vacuum Aspiration | Manual Vacuum Aspiration | Misoprostol |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| How It Works | Allows the uterus to evacuate the prod- ucts of conception by spontaneous uterine contractions over time without provider inter- vention Natural process Throughout the first trimester | A procedure that uses electric suction instruments inserted into the uterus to remove the products of conception Uterine size less than or up to 13 weeks from LMP | A procedure that uses manual suction instruments inserted into the uterus to remove the products of conception Uterine size less than or up to 13 weeks from LMP | Causes contractions that expel remaining products of conception Uterine size less than or up to 13 weeks from LMP |
| Safety | Emergency access to emergency care is important in case any products of conception are retained and cause complications (i.e. infection) | Low risk of infection or injury Little or no cervical dilation Low blood loss Short outpatient stay | Low risk of infection or injury Little or no cervical dilation Low blood loss Short stay | Referral relationship to a facility with vacuum aspiration must be established |
| Effectiveness | Effectiveness varies and vacuum aspiration may still be necessary Up to 84% | 98-100% | 98-100% | 91-99% *average is 95% |
| Cost Considerations | No cost | Cost effective if done on an outpatient basis under local anesthesia EVA machine is expensive – requires constant supply of electricity | Cost effective if done on an outpatient basis under local anesthesia MVA instrument is inexpensive | Inexpensive |
| Accessibility | Women can use this method at home Needs to happen under the supervision of a trained provider (including mid-level) | Can be used in mid-level as well as high level health facilities in clean conditions with proper provider training | Can be used in low-lev- el health care facility, in clean conditions with proper provider training Readily available in most settings | Can be provided in any health facility or family planning clinic Women can use this method at home |
| Acceptability to Women | Women can remain awake Private More natural/like miscarriage Need time and patience Side effects: bleeding and cramping | Women can remain awake Side effects: bleeding and cramping | Women can remain awake Procedure is quiet Side effects: bleeding, cramping | Women can remain awake Private More natural/like mis- carriage Side effects: nausea, vomiting, fever, chills |