

MISCARRIAGE

RABBI TZVI YAAKOV STEIN

- Miscarriage is unfortunately very common. It happens to more than fifty percent of women at some point in their lives.
- Most of the time it occurs within the first three months of pregnancy.
- Standard halachos of niddah apply.¹
- A miscarriage forty days after tevilah has the same halachos as a woman who has given birth. Therefore, tevilah may not take place earlier than fourteen days from the miscarriage. (This is an extra two days than standard niddah.)²
- The fourteen-day count does not start from the onset of niddah, rather from when the miscarriage takes place. Which is when something passes from the body or from when the bleeding gets heavy.³
- In the case of a D&C or D&E, the fourteen days begin from the procedure.
- There are no vestos (onah days) from a miscarriage.
- Poskim are very lenient regarding the amount of bedikos

that are done after a miscarriage because many times there's a lot of trauma to the area and irritation is common.

- For a miscarriage after twelve weeks, a shailah should be asked regarding if the fetus requires burial. Many poskim say it needs to be at least twenty weeks to require burial.⁴
- If this is the first pregnancy, try to find out exactly how old the fetus was, because if the next birth is a boy, it may affect pidyon haben.
- Sometimes the doctors find no heartbeat and want to terminate the pregnancy. Make sure to confirm this diagnosis with a sonogram and/or a blood test. In most cases there's no rush to terminate and it's best to wait a week or two in order to confirm the findings. A shailah should be asked.
- Sometimes they will want to do an autopsy, especially in the event of multiple miscarriages. A shailah should be asked before allowing it.
- A fetus from a miscarriage goes to Olam Habah and will also have techiyas hameisim.⁵

5. שו"ת אגרות משה (יורה דעה חלק ג סימן קלח)

3. שולחן ערוך (סימן קצד סעיף א)

1. שולחן ערוך (סימן קצד סעיף ב)

4. משמרת שלום (הלכות שמחות אות ק סעיף ג)

2. שולחן ערוך (סימן קצד סעיף ג)