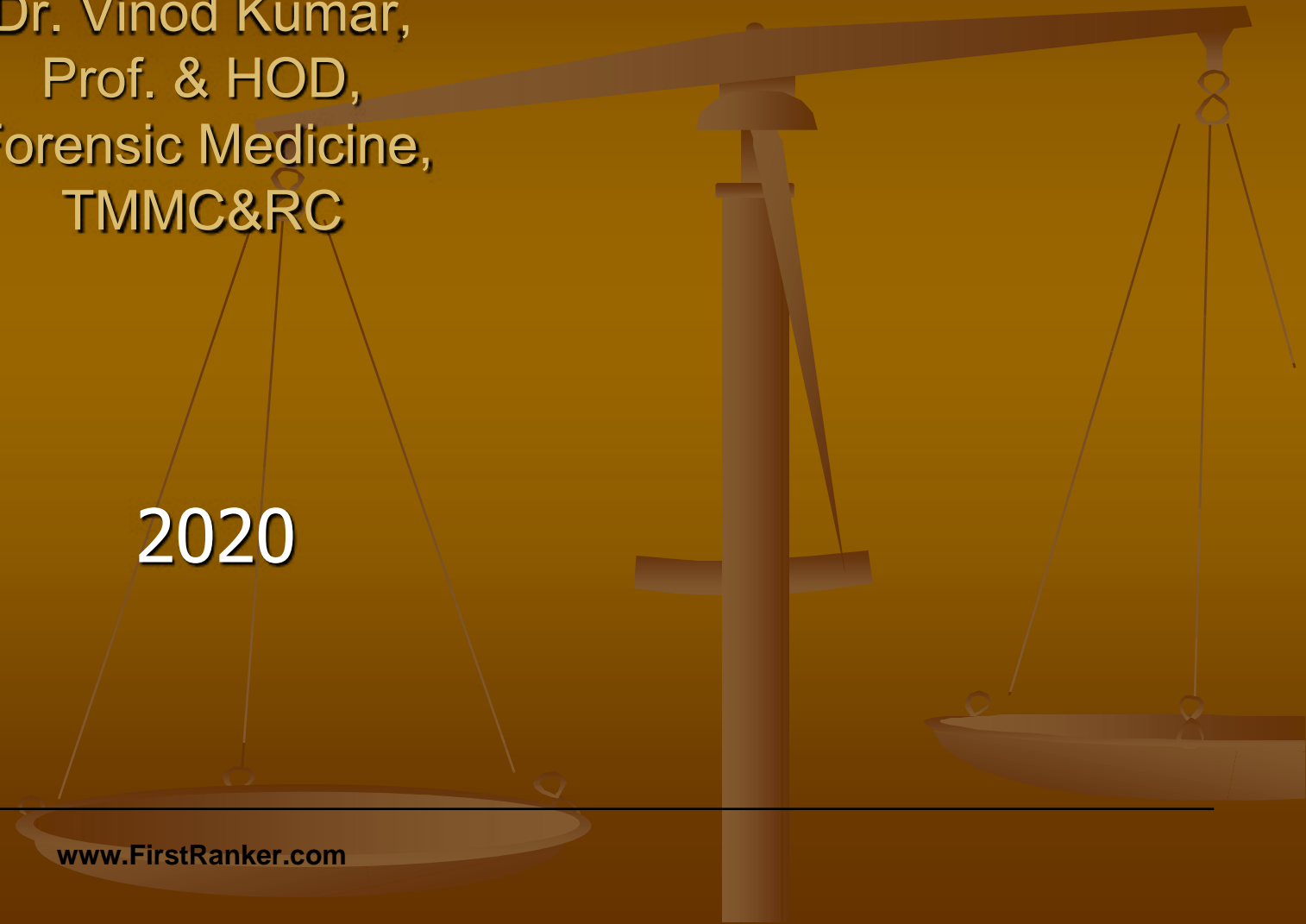


Criminal Abortion

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Criminal Abortion

- Any abortion induced in defiance of one or more of the provisions will amount to criminal abortion

- In simple words it can be defined as:-

- **Abortion which is not as per Termination Law**

Motive for Criminal Abortion

1. To get rid of child following illicit intercourse with a view to avoid the shame and disgrace in cases of:-

Widows

Unmarried girls

Married woman conceiving during long absence of her husband

2. To prevent inconvenient addition to the family

Methods adopted in inducing Criminal Abortion

Up to the end of 1st month

Mechanical violence used by several means

Extrauterine means:-

Lifting of heavy weight, horse riding, cycling, jolting

Kicks and blows over abdomen, falling or jumping from a height

Kneading or firmly massaging the ant. Abdominal wall

Tight compression of lower abdomen, alternate hot and cold bath, use of purgative

By the end of 2nd month

(Suspicion becomes a surety now:- more drastic measures are adopted)

Use of Abortifacient drugs

A) ECBOLICS -- these drugs contracts the pregnant uterus.

- a) Ergot preparations, b) Quinine, c) Strychnine, d) Synthetic estrogen, e) Pituitary extract

But not always successful in low doses, in higher doses- may cause danger

B) EMENAGOGUES –these durgs initiates and increases menstrual blood flow.

- a) Oestrogen, b) Borax, c) Savin, d) Sanguinarine

C) Drugs irritating genito urinary tract– these are

- a) Cantherides, b) Oil of pennyroyal, c) oil of tancy, terpine

D) Drugs which irritates the GI Tract– these reflexly initiates uterine contraction

Emetics- Tartar emetic

Saline cathartics– Magnesium sulphate

Strong purgatives– Castor oil, Croton oil, Aloes, Colocynth, Phenolphthalein

Abortifacient Drugs – cont.

E) Drugs which are primarily toxic to other systems

Inorganic irritants– salts of lead, arsenic, phosphorus, copper, mercury, antimony.

Organic irritants– unripe fruit of papaya, pineamethi, Rati (abrus precatorious)

Calotropis, plumbago:- *(juice is used in abortion stick)*

F) Patent preparations:- abortion pills made of lead, diphenylethylene

Rati (Abrus Precatorious)

Plant with pods



Seeds



Organic irritants

Unripe fruit of Pappaya



Unripe Pineapple



Organic irritants

Methi (Fenugreek)

Methi Leaves



Methi Seeds



Organic irritants

Calotropis Gigantea



Calotropis Fruit



Organic irritants

■ *Plumbago*



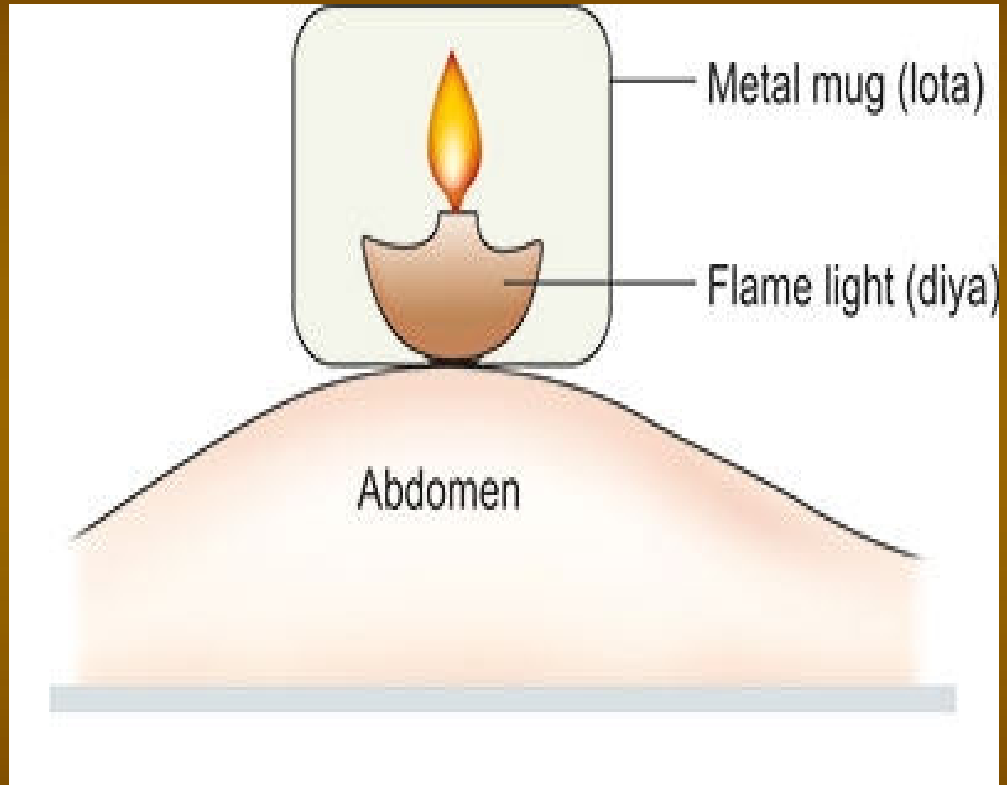
General Violence

- G) General Violence-
- Beside the method already discussed under the heading *Extra uterine means*
- Cupping—
- A flaming light is placed on abdominal wall. It is covered by a bowl-- air expands-- on cooling air contracts-- bowl sticks to the abdominal wall-- bowl is pulled suddenly-- causes separation of placenta

Cupping

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H) Introduction of Utus Paste --

(containing mercury, thymol, iodine and some other agents) inside the uterus leads to abortion.

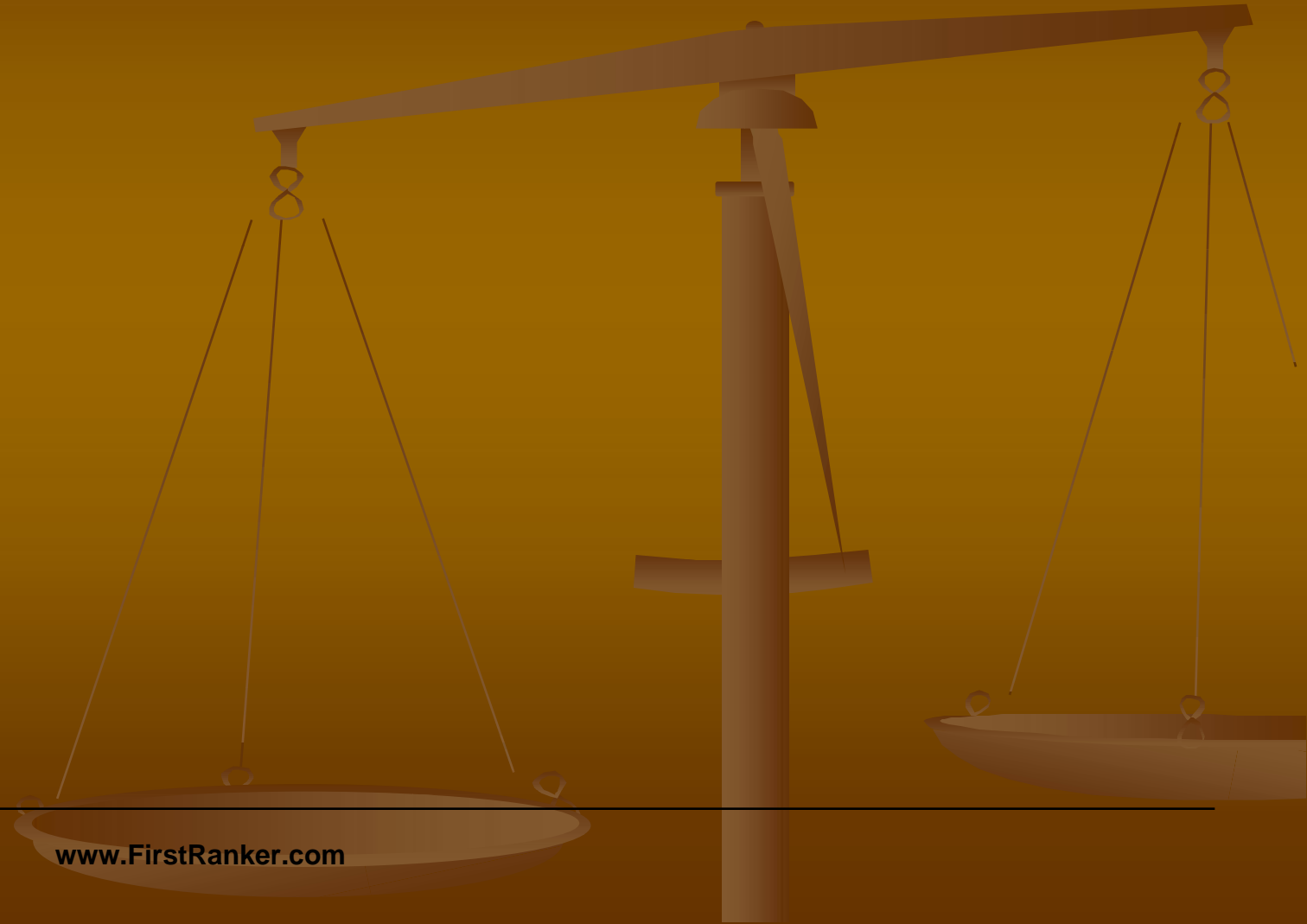
I) Pushing laminaria tent and abortion stick inside uterus

J) Rupture of membrane by - hair-pin, nail

K) Syringing --Higginson's syringe– Abortifacient fluid like soap water, KMNO_4 sol., cresol, Lysol or tincture iodine pushed inside uterus.

Local violence

- Syringing
- Rupture of membrane
- Abortion stick
- Syringe and aspiration
- Vacuum aspiration
- Dilatation of cervix
- Air insufflation
- Electric current
- Utus paste

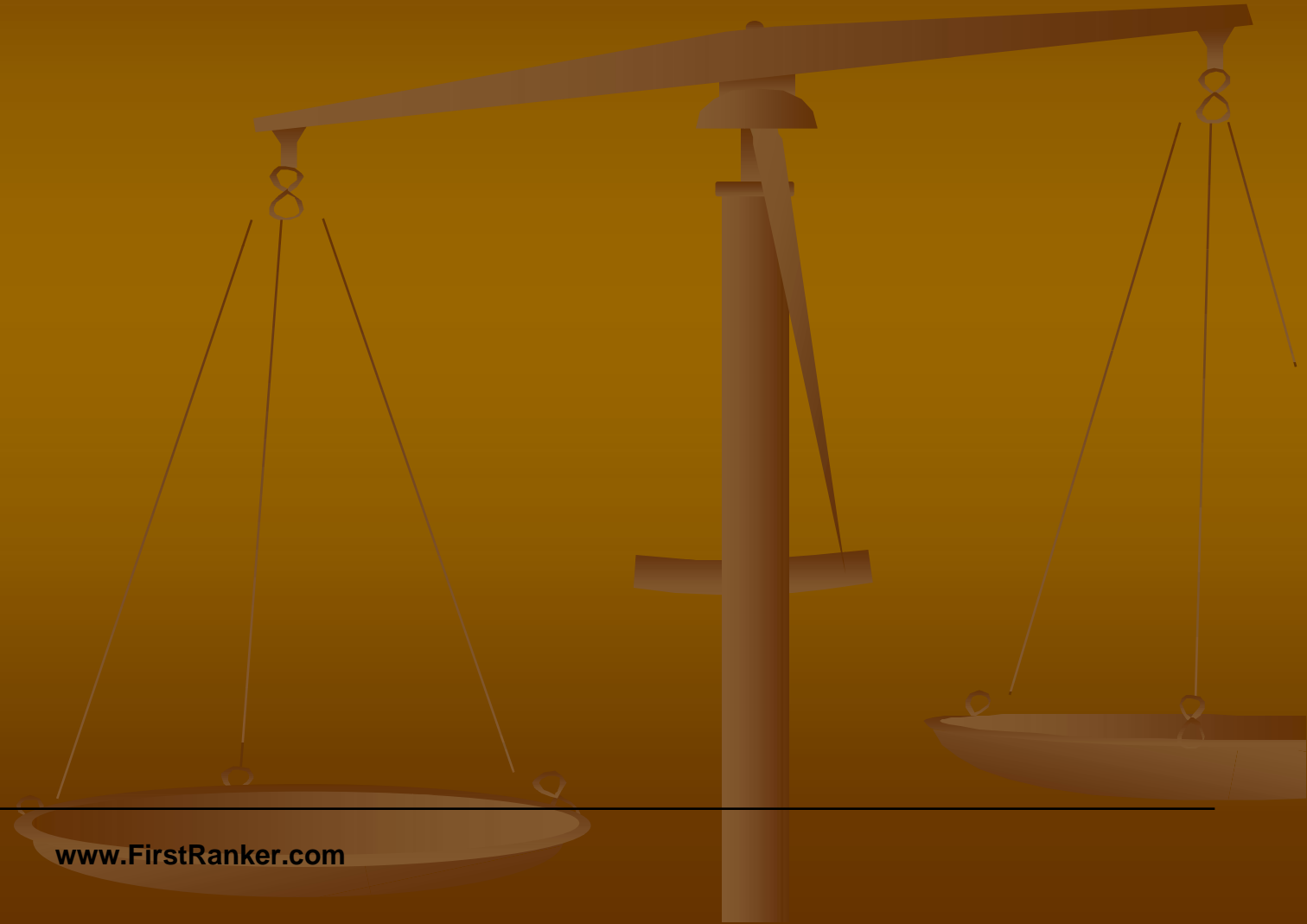


Higginson syringe



Higginson syringe

- Soap water
- Dettol water
- Alum
- KMnO_4
- Formalin sol.
- Lysol





See Weed (Laminaria)



Laminaria tent



Materials used for local violence



Causes of death and dangers of criminal abortion

1) Causes of rapid death:-

Haemorrhage- common in incomplete abortion

Perforation

Vagal shock

Fat embolism- when fat containing solution is used

Air embolism

Causes of death and dangers of criminal abortion

Delayed death :- (within some days)

Peritonitis (in case of perforation)

Local infection

Tetanus

Septicaemia, pyemia

Remote causes:- (Death occurs due to complications of abortion)

Renal failure

Meningitis

Endocarditis

Hepatitis

Toxic effect of abortifacient drugs :- may cause death during any period

Evidences of criminal abortion

- **In living lady**
- Signs are akin to those found in recent delivery (*modified by certain factors*)
- Breast changes (*in primipara*)
- Enlargement of uterus
- Haemorrhage
- Offensive vaginal discharge
- Vaginal speculum examination:-
 - Vaginal erosion/ laceration
 - Cervix- Softening / lacerations
- Signs of peritonitis

Evidences of criminal abortion

■ ***In Dead lady***

- ***Always sent for post mortem examination***
 - Sudden death of a woman of child bearing age
 - Dead woman is pregnant and deeply cyanosed
 - ***Pale if death was due to excessive hemorrhage***
 - Disturbed underclothing
 - Evidence of abortifacient drugs/ instruments used
 - Soapy fluid/ blood stained fluid coming out of vagina
 - Vaginal discharge may have offensive smell/ smell of soap/ Dettol/ Lysol
- Genital examination often reveals congestion of labia, injury to posterior commissure

Evidences of criminal abortion in a dead lady

Continued

- Abdominal cavity may contain clotted blood
- Perforation of pelvic organs may be present
- Uterus findings:- Enlarged size, cavity may contain chemicals/ abortion stick
- Part of product of conception, blood clot
- Findings in the ovaries, lungs, heart, kidneys and others
- **Material Preserved**
- Uterus, ovaries and vagina:- in formol saline for histopathology
- Part of uterus, part of vagina in S. S. of common salt for chemical analysis
- Other usual viscera as per indication
- Blood and urine also preserved
- **Examination of product/ part of product of conception**

Medicolegal aspects of abortion

- Abortion induced without proper indication:- Amounts to crime
- Doctor violating the MTP Act 1971:- liable to be punished
- Pregnant or even non pregnant lady may malingering abortion –
■ due to assault- false charge against enemy.
- Abortion may be feigned:- for blackmailing
■ for compensation by a working woman
- A woman may be falsely charged for inducing criminal abortion
- A woman who has aborted:- falsely charged of infanticide
- A woman who has aborted:- may bring charge of negligence against the treating doctor

Role of doctor in dealing a case of criminal abortion

- 1. Consult a professional colleague
- 2. Render proper treatment, preserve suspected material, keep detailed record
- 3. Maintain professional secrecy
- 4. If police inquires, must give full information
- 5. In case of impending death- request for recording of dying declaration
- 6. In case of death of woman- police informed
 - dead body handed to police
 - death certificate not issued
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