

**The Semi-quantitative  
Pregnancy Test (SQPT): You  
don't know you need it (yet),  
but you will**

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# What is a Semi-quantitative Pregnancy Test (SQPT)?

- **Identifies hCG using antigen/antibody reaction, like all other pregnancy test**
- **Does not give a precise concentration of hCG in test liquid**
- **Does not give only a “yes/no” readout**
- **Identifies a range in which the precise level falls**

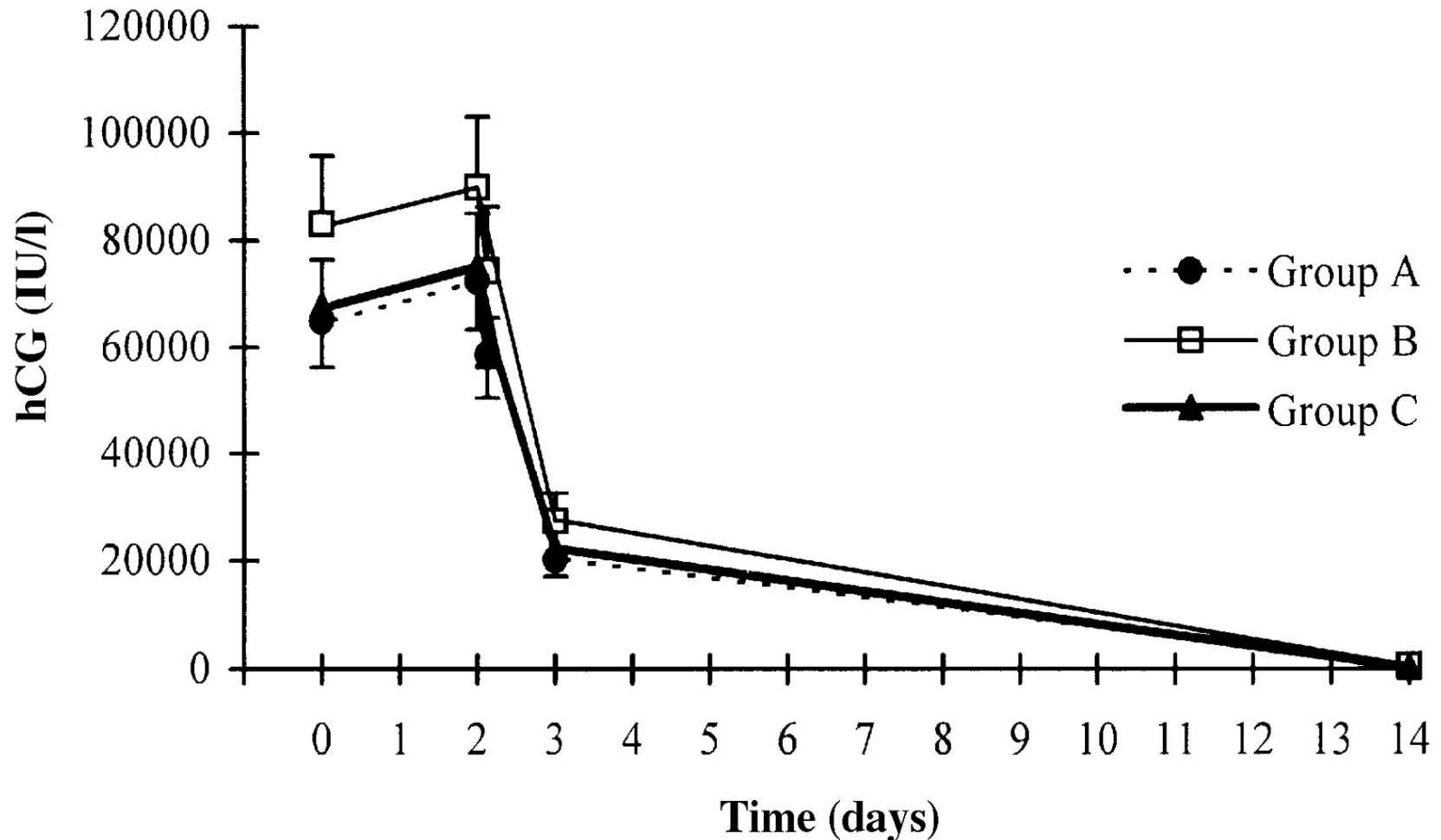
# What does it look like?



# BACKGROUND

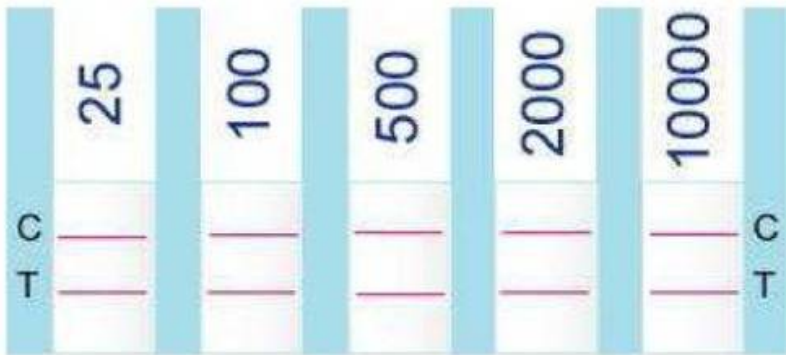
- **Efforts to improve medical abortion care and reduce burden of clinic-based follow-up sought**
- **Alternative follow-up with a semi-quantitative pregnancy test (SQPT) could:**
  - **Identify ongoing pregnancies at home; allow for “virtual” follow-up for most women (*e.g.* telephone, Internet, etc.)**
  - **Reduce reliance on ultrasound (and “unnecessary” interventions that often result)**
  - **Facilitate task-shifting, enabling lower level professionals to manage follow-up**

# After medical abortion, hCG declines but does not disappear

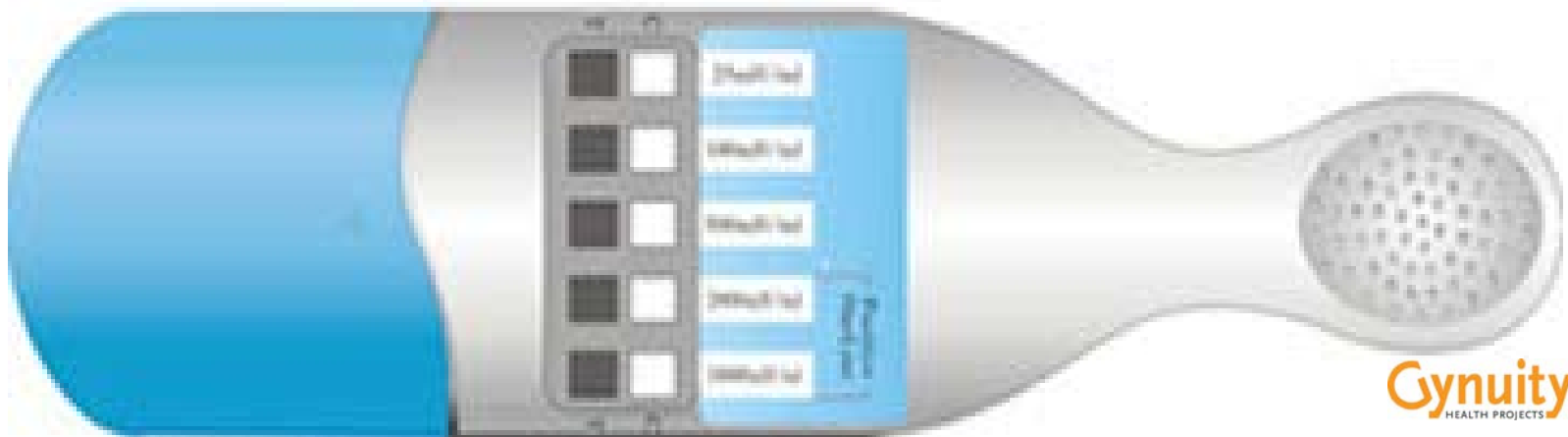
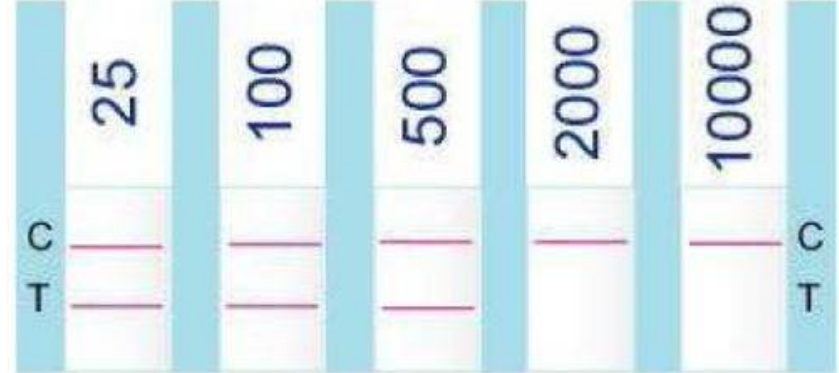


# SQPT AS MEDICAL ABORTION F/U

**Baseline**  
( Mifepristone day)



**Follow-up**  
(1 to 2 wks later)



# DESCRIPTION OF STUDIES



## Two Clinical Studies: U.S., Vietnam

- 490 women seeking medical abortion at 3 facilities in U.S.; 300 women 1 hospital in Vietnam
- Eligible, willing and consenting with gestations < 63 days' LMP
- All women used test and completed a questionnaire at home on morning of follow-up visit (week 1 in U.S.; week 2 in Vietnam)
- Results of at-home test verified at standard clinic follow-up visit



## Randomized Controlled Trial in Vietnam

- 1433 women seeking MA at 4 hospitals
- Eligible, willing and consenting with gestations < 63 days' LMP
- Randomized to :
  - 1) standard clinic-based follow-up
  - 2) alternative phone follow-up using at-home pregnancy test, simple questionnaire

# CONCLUSIONS: THE POSSIBILITIES

- **Use of SQPTs could substantially reduce clinic follow-up after MA**
- **Ongoing pregnancy could be identified without clinic follow-up**
- **Acceptability should be high in all settings**
- **Programmatic applications would need development**
  - **Counseling on interpretation of test & development of information sheet for use by low or no-literacy audiences**
  - **Research to examine appropriate methods to contact women in each setting (phone, internet, text)**
- **Investment needed to make SQPT widely available at affordable price for integration into medical abortion services globally**



# Lots of potential uses of SQPT

- **To assess successful medical abortion**
  - at home follow-up for women
  - Tests show increasing or decreasing levels of hCG; only women not experiencing hCG drop would be asked to return for clinic follow-up
- **To assess successful IVF/ART**
- **To monitor ectopic pregnancy**
- **As triage test in the ED**
- **For management of very early surgical terminations**

*Thank you!*