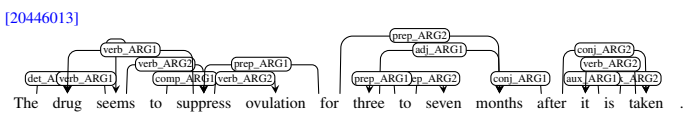
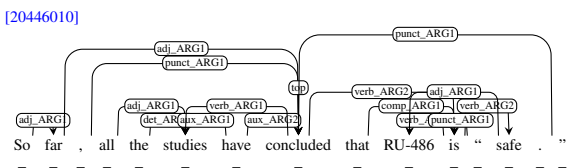
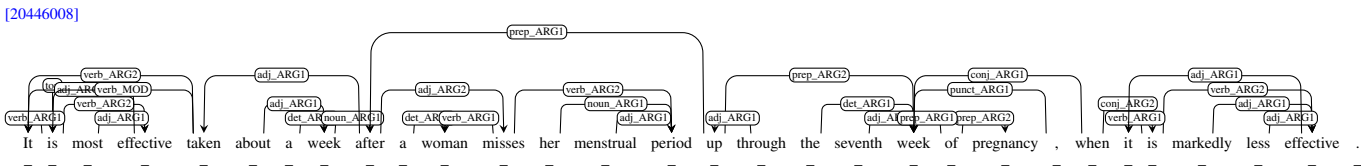
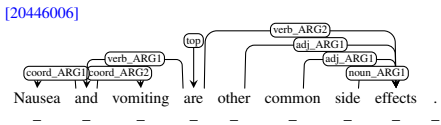
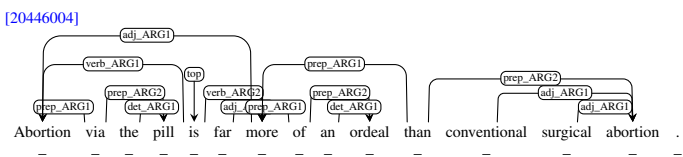


[20446001]



But there are no scientific data on this question .

[20446016]

Rather ominously , rabbit studies reveal that RU-486 can cause birth defects , Lancet , the British medical journal , reported in 1987 .

[20446019]

All the published studies recommend that women on whom the drug proves ineffective not carry the pregnancy to term but undergo a surgical abortion .

[20446020]

A risk of birth defects , a sure source of lawsuits , is one reason the U.S. pharmaceutical industry is steering clear of RU-486 .

[20446022]

Some abortion advocates have been asking themselves this very question .

[20446023]

RU-486 " probably represents a technical advance in an area where none is needed , or at least not very much , " said Phillip Stubblefield , president of the National Abortion Federation , at a reproductive health conference in 1986 .

[20446024]

Many physicians have expressed concern over the heavy bleeding , which occurs even if the drug fails to induce an abortion .

[20446026]

The Health and Human Services Department currently forbids the National Institutes of Health from funding abortion research as part of its \$ 8 million contraceptive program .

[20446027]

But the Population Council , a 37-year-old , \$ 20 million nonprofit organization that has the backing of the Rockefeller and Mellon foundations and currently subsidizes most U.S. research on contraceptives , has recently been paying for U.S. studies of RU-486 on a license from its French developer , Roussel-Uclaf , a joint subsidiary of the German pharmaceutical company Hoechst and the French government .

[20446028]

In the year since the pill went on the French market , the National Organization for Women and its offshoot , former NOW President Eleanor Smeal 's Fund for a Feminist Majority , have been trying to browbeat the U.S. pharmaceutical industry into getting involved .

[20446029]



