

**Table 2 Obstetric characteristics of women applying for a legal abortion licence at the Tehran Province General Office of Legal Medicine from 23 August 2011 to 22 August 2012, according to issuance or not of the licence**

Obstetric characteristic	Licence issued (n = 661)		Licence not issued (n = 717)		P-value
	No	%	No.	%	
<b>History of abortion</b>					
Yes	470	73.7	514	78.1	0.172 <sup>a</sup>
No	167	26.2	143	21.7	
Total	638	100	658	100	
<b>Medication regimen or exposure to radiation during pregnancy</b>					
Yes	556	86.7	419	63.5	< 0.001 <sup>a</sup>
No	85	13.3	241	36.5	
Total	641	100	660	100	
<b>Similar problems in the family</b>					
Yes	521	90.6	422	87.7	0.80 <sup>a</sup>
No	54	9.4	59	12.3	
Total	575	100	481	100	
<b>Referred by:</b>					
Gynaecologist	479	75.8	468	73.2	< 0.001 <sup>a</sup>
Midwife	33	5.2	29	4.5	
Medical centre	10	1.6	5	0.8	
General physician	1	0.2	9	1.4	
Radiologist	4	0.6	5	0.8	
Other specialists	105	16.7	123	19.3	
Total	632	100	639	100	
		<b>Mean (SD)</b>		<b>Mean (SD)</b>	
GA based on ultrasound (weeks)		15.4 (3.16)		14.7 (7.72)	0.027 <sup>b</sup>
Gravidity		1.9 (1.34)		1.2 (1.46)	0.006 <sup>b</sup>
Parity		0.8 (0.93)		1.1 (1.05)	0.001 <sup>b</sup>
Number of abortions		0.4 (0.74)		0.4 (0.78)	0.244 <sup>b</sup>
Number of spontaneous abortions		1.2 (0.63)		1.5 (1.07)	0.019 <sup>b</sup>
Number of legal abortions		1.0 (0.40)		0.9 (0.24)	0.165 <sup>b</sup>
Number of illegal abortions		0.7 (0.50)		1.0 (0.43)	0.345 <sup>b</sup>
GA based on abdominal examination (weeks)		15.9 (3.02)		18.9 (4.83)	< 0.001 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Chi-squared test; <sup>b</sup>Independent t-test.

SD = standard deviation, GA = gestational age