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Note generali	"The text was first published in German under the title "Guterabwägung, Totungsverbot und Abtreibung in vitalen Konfliktfällen. Lösungsversuch eines klassischen gynakologischen dilemmas aus tugendethischer perspektive" ... [and] included in M. Rhonheimer, Abtreibung und Lebensschutz. Totungsverbot und Recht auf Leben in der politischen und medizinischen Ethik (Paderborn: Schöningh, 2003)"--P. xiii.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The problem. Two methodologies for the moral evaluation of action : the principle of double effect (PDE) and the weighing of goods -- Overview of this study and brief summary of the argument -- "Vital indication" and a recent example : the moral justification of the act of saving a life -- The structure of the argumentation : weighing goods in the case of vital indication -- Church doctrine and past discussions in moral theology. "Direct abortion" according to church doctrine : specification of the concept from the viewpoint of action theory -- The physical and intentional structure of actions : the object of the moral act -- The controversy regarding craniotomy through the end of the nineteenth century : the interpretation of Summa theologiae II-II, q.64, a.7: a. The argument of Pietro Avanzini and the category of the "unjust aggressor" ; b. Summa theologiae II-II, q.64, a.7 : killing in self-defense according to Thomas Aquinas ; c. Critique and the development of the

discussion ; d. Waffelaert's incorrect interpretation of ST II-II, q.64, a.7 ;
e. The consequences of the confusion -- Life-saving medical
interventions : the prohibition of killing and the virtue of justice.
Retrospective summary : acts of killing and the ethical context of
"justice" -- Reevaluation of contemporary therapies : vital indication
and extrauterine gravidity: a. Salpingectomy or segment resection ; b.
Linear salpingotomy (or salpingostomy) ; c. Drug treatment with
methotrexate ; d. Expectant management -- The moral justification of
life-saving measures in the case of vital conflict: a. Recapitulation and
conclusive explanation of the ethical argument ; b. The exclusion of the
weighing of goods ; c. Objections and response -- Epilogue: Virtue
ethics, "direct" and "indirect," and prohibition of killing.
