

Medical Abortion 101

Medical abortion uses medications instead of surgery to end a pregnancy

1 It Is Highly Effective

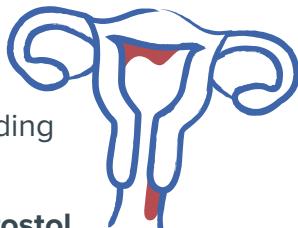


Ends up to 98% of pregnancies if used in the first 10 weeks

Less effective in later pregnancy

Free in most Canadian provinces

Health Canada approves its use for up to 9 weeks



2 What To Expect

After mifepristone

- may have some light bleeding
- many have no bleeding

After misoprostol

within:

- strong, painful cramping
- bleeding heavier than a period
- may pass lemon-sized clots
- fever over 38°C

3 hrs

- nausea, headache, dizziness, diarrhea

24 hrs

- light bleeding

2 weeks

- light bleeding

○ Won't see a fetus if less than 8 weeks gestation

3 Managing Side Effects



diarrhea



loperamide



vomiting/nausea



dimenhydrinate



cramping



naproxen
ibuprofen
opioid

Only use pads, not tampons



How to Take It

Start



Take 1 mifepristone tablet with a glass of water

24-48h later

Put 2 misoprostol tablets in each cheek pouch for 30 mins



Swallow remnants

with a glass of water

- blocks progesterone in the uterus
- causes uterus to shed its lining



- causes cervix to open and uterus to contract to push out pregnancy

Seek Urgent Care If



- soaking 2 maxi-pads per hour for more than 2 hrs
- clots larger than a lemon for more than 2 hrs
- pain doesn't improve with medication
- fever, nausea, diarrhea, or weakness

occurring 24 hrs after taking misoprostol

After the Abortion

- 8 ovulation can happen within 8 days of an abortion
- can start birth control pills after taking misoprostol
- † can have IUD inserted 7-14 days after misoprostol
- ⌚ see abortion provider in 7-14 days to confirm the abortion is complete