



**EFFICACY OF THE MEDICATION**



Misoprostol works to terminate a pregnancy without need of additional medical care in about every 8 out of 10 women.

**IN CASE THE MEDICATION DID NOT WORK**



Repeat the abortion by repeating the misoprostol dose or by having Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA). There is a very small risk of birth defects if pregnancy continues after taking misoprostol.



**WAS MY ABORTION SUCCESSFUL?**

Even if the woman feels she is not pregnant anymore, it is important to make sure the abortion was successful. Women should either do an ultrasound after the medical abortion or do a pregnancy test 3-4 weeks after the abortion.



**AFTER THE ABORTION**



After the abortion, a woman should expect light bleeding for 1-3 weeks, but every woman is different. Afterwards, the woman should confirm that the abortion was successful.



Women are advised not to insert anything into the vagina (tampons), have bath and sex until heavy bleeding stops, approximately for 2 days, after a medication abortion.



**A woman can get pregnant immediately after an abortion!**  
If she doesn't want to get pregnant immediately she can start good contraception to prevent a new unwanted pregnancy.



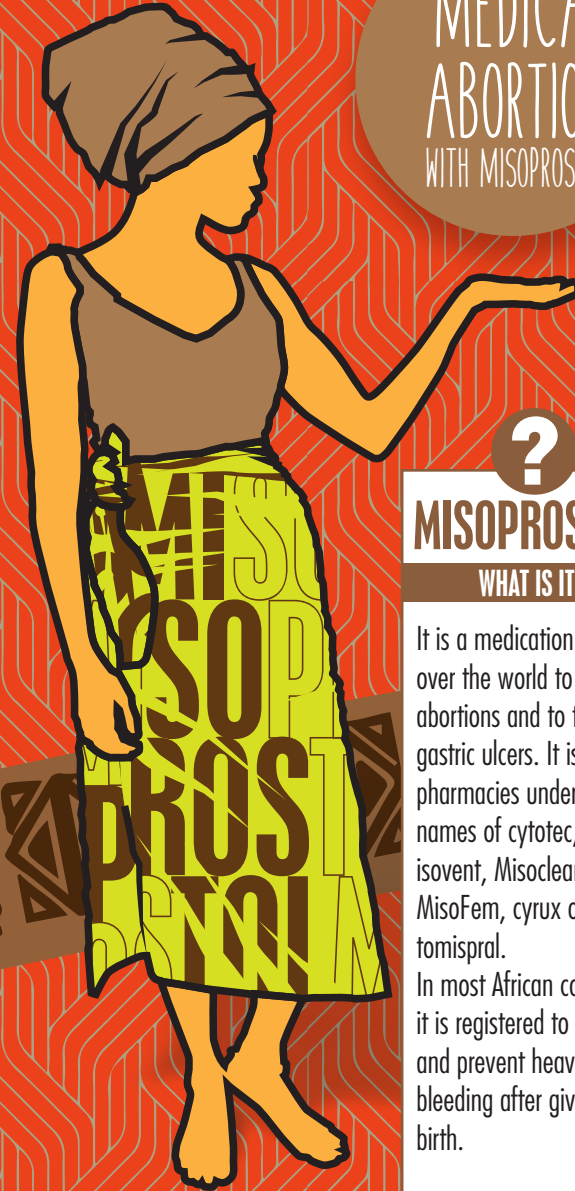
**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

Women Help Women  
WEB: [HTTPS://WOMENHELP.ORG/](https://womenhelp.org/)  
EMAIL: [INFO@WOMENHELP.ORG](mailto:info@womenhelp.org)  
TWITTER: @WOMENHELPORG  
FACEBOOK: WOMENHELPWOMENINTERNATIONAL

MAMA Network: Mobilizing Activists around Medical Abortion (MAMA).  
WEB: [WWW.MAMANETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.MAMANETWORK.ORG)

Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health (TICAH)  
WEB: [WWW.TICAHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.TICAHEALTH.ORG)  
EMAIL: [LISTENING@TICAHEALTH.ORG](mailto:LISTENING@TICAHEALTH.ORG)  
TWITTER: @YOURAUNTYJANE  
FACEBOOK: AUNTY JANE HOTLINE

**MEDICAL ABORTION WITH MISOPROSTOL**



**MISOPROSTOL, WHAT IS IT?**

It is a medication used all over the world to induce abortions and to treat gastric ulcers. It is sold in pharmacies under the names of cytotec, isovent, Misoclear, MisoFem, cyrux or tomispral. In most African countries it is registered to treat and prevent heavy bleeding after giving birth.





## MISOPROSTOL,

### WHAT CAN IT BE USED FOR?

Safely inducing abortion  
 Post miscarriage and post abortion care (to complete an incomplete abortion)  
 Preventing and treating post-partum hemorrhaging (heavy bleeding after giving birth)  
 Use it for gastric ulcer

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Misoprostol will cause a process similar to a natural miscarriage. It softens and opens the cervix, making the uterus to contract and expel the pregnancy.

### WHEN CAN IT BE USED FOR SAFE ABORTION?



In the first 9 weeks of pregnancy counting from the first day of the last menstrual cycle.



After 9 weeks it is advised to use it under medical supervision.



### HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED TO INDUCE AN ABORTION?



A woman needs 12 pills in total to be taken in 3 doses of 4 pills every 3 hours:



Place **4 misoprostol pills** under the tongue



for 30 minutes

Do not swallow, let it dissolve



After 3 hours place another **4 pills** under the tongue



for 30 minutes

Do not swallow, let it dissolve



After 3 hours place another **4 pills** under the tongue



for 30 minutes

Do not swallow, let it dissolve



### WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED AFTER USING THE MEDICATION?



Cramps and vaginal bleeding stronger than what happens during the menstruation



In 80% of cases, **the expulsion of the pregnancy** happens during the first 24 hours.



The longer the woman has been pregnant, the stronger the bleeding and cramps might be.



She can use **ibuprofen or panadol** to relieve the pain.



### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS



Within the first 24 hours the following symptoms may occur: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever with or without chills, headache and / or dizziness. These side-effects are not dangerous and will disappear within few hours



### WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS (COMPLICATIONS)?



Excessive bleeding (2 or 3 pads filled per hour for more than 2 or 3 hours in a row)



High Fever (more than 39 Celsius), or 38 Celsius for more than 24h



Strong pain that does not go away with painkillers and few days after taking the medicines



Smelly, abnormal vaginal discharge

### WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF COMPLICATIONS?



Go immediately to a health center.

In case of a medical emergency, **medical personnel have the obligation to attend to the person in a timely manner.** The treatment for complications is the same as for complications after a miscarriage. **It is not possible to see the difference between a miscarriage and an induced abortion with misoprostol.** A woman in need of medical care **can say she has had a miscarriage.**

