



EFFICACY OF THE MEDICATION



Misoprostol works to terminate a pregnancy in about every 9 out of 10 women.

IN CASE THE MEDICATION DID NOT WORK



Repeat the abortion by repeating Medical Abortion (Mifepristone and Misoprostol Alone) or by having Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA). There is a very small risk of birth defects if pregnancy continues after taking Misoprostol.



ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Women HelpWomen

WEB: [HTTPS://WOMENHELP.ORG/](https://womenhelp.org/)

EMAIL: [INFO@WOMENHELP.ORG](mailto:info@womenhelp.org)

TWITTER: [@WOMENHELPORG](https://twitter.com/womenhelporg)

FACEBOOK: [WOMENHELPWOMENINTERNATIONAL](https://www.facebook.com/womenhelpwomeninternational)

MAMA Network: Mobilizing Activists around Medical Abortion (MAMA).

WEB: [WWW.MAMANETWORK.ORG](http://www.mamanetwork.org)



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.



In case the woman **doesn't bleed**, has **little bleeding** (less than menstruation and without clots) and or **continues to have pregnancy symptoms** after using the pills it is likely she is still pregnant. She should **do an ultrasound** as soon as possible to check if the pregnancy continues or not, if this isn't possible she can use the pills again.



AFTER THE ABORTION



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



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.

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, Msoclear, MisoFem, Cyrux or Tmispral. In most African countries it is registered to treat and prevent heavy bleeding after giving birth.



WHW
women help women





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 hemorrhage (PPH - severe bleeding after giving birth). Used to prevent gastric ulcer.

HOW DOES IT WORK ?

Misoprostol makes the uterus contract, softens and opens the cervix, which causes a process like a miscarriage.

WHEN CAN IT BE USED FOR SAFE ABORTION?



12 WEEKS

In the first 12 weeks of pregnancy counting from the first day of the last menstrual cycle.



HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED TO INDUCE AN ABORTION ?



A woman needs 12 pills. Misoprostol should be taken in doses of 4 pills every 3 hours:



Place 4 misoprostol pills under the tongue for 30 minutes to dissolve



Do not swallow, let it dissolve.



Place 4 misoprostol pills under the tongue for 30 minutes to dissolve



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Do not swallow, let it dissolve.



If the abortion hasn't occurred 3h later, the woman can use additional doses every 3 hours until expulsion.



WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED AFTER USING THE MEDICATION?



Cramps and vaginal bleeding stronger than during normal menstruation.



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.



Painkillers can be taken at the same time as the first dose of misoprostol. **Ibuprofen** is the most effective. **Paracetamol/ acetaminophen** can be used in addition.



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 of more than 39 Celsius or 38 Celsius for more than 24h



Strong pain that does not go away with painkillers a 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.**

