

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

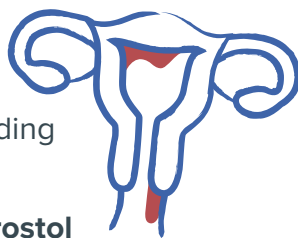
Free in most Canadian provinces

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



within:

After misoprostol

3 hrs

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

24 hrs

- nausea, headache, dizziness, diarrhea

2 weeks

- light bleeding

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

3 Managing Side Effects



diarrhea



vomiting/nausea



cramping



loperamide



dimenhydrinate



naproxen
ibuprofen
opioid

Only use pads, not tampons

How to Take It

Start



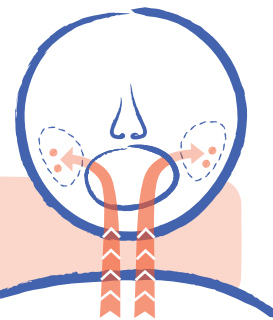
Take **1 mifepristone tablet** with a glass of water

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

24-48h later

Put **2 misoprostol tablets** in each cheek pouch for **30 mins**

Swallow remnants with a glass of water



- 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