



Medication Abortion

What is medication abortion?

Medication abortion is the method of safely and effectively inducing a miscarriage using FDA-approved abortion pills. Medication abortion can be used to end a pregnancy up to 10 weeks from the first day of your last menstrual cycle.

Most often, a pregnant person takes two different medicines 1-2 days apart. The first is a 200 mg tablet of mifepristone (brand name Mifeprex) which blocks the hormone progesterone. The second is a multi-tablet dose of misoprostol (brand name Cytotec) taken 24-48 hours later which increases uterine contractions. The two medications are recommended by the World Health Organization and are 99% effective when taken together this way.

Alternatively, a pregnant person may take misoprostol only, *following a different dose and schedule*. Misoprostol alone is up to 90% effective.

What to expect:

- You will experience **bleeding or spotting** that can be darker than a normal period and last for several days; you may experience light bleeding for several weeks
- You will feel **cramping** (uterine contractions) within a few hours of taking misoprostol; the further along your pregnancy is, the heavier your cramps and bleeding will be
- You may have **nausea, diarrhea, hot flashes, slight dizziness**, and/or **mild fever** (lower than 100.4° F)
- You may see **blood clots** or tissue that looks gray
- Your **cervix will soften** to allow tissue to leave your uterus more easily so avoid putting anything into your vagina—including penetrative sex—for up to 2 weeks to help prevent infection

- Your **pregnancy hormone hCG will go back to normal** 4-6 weeks after an abortion and your pregnancy symptoms will fade with it; wait at least 3 weeks after an abortion before taking a pregnancy test to avoid a false positive
- Your **first menstrual cycle will return in 4-8 weeks** and could be heavier than your previous ones
- You could **ovulate within 1-2 weeks** of a complete abortion—before your period cycle returns—so take precautions when having vaginal-penile sex

WHAT'S SAFER?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mifepristone
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tylenol
Per year, 150 accidental overdoses of tylenol lead to deadly liver failure.	



Seeking further assistance

How safe is medication abortion? Every year, more people die from taking Tylenol than have ever died in the US from taking mifepristone, and serious complications are rare.

But if you have any of the following, contact your health care provider immediately:

- foul-smelling discharge
- fever lasting longer than 24 hours or higher than 102.2° F
- very heavy bleeding, severe pain, or nausea/vomiting that lasts longer than 24 hours
- increased bleeding or blood that is bright red
- persistent cramping or pain that cannot be relieved through over-the-counter medication.

Medication abortion and naturally occurring miscarriage are medically *indistinguishable*, with the same risks and treatments. There is no test to determine if you have taken abortion pills.

If your abortion is incomplete, your doctor may use medication, aspiration, or dilation and curettage to help remove the remaining contents of the uterus.

