

OR 714.922.4100 | SB 909.890.5511

Information for Informed Consent
USING THE ABORTION PILL

What is the abortion pill and how do I take it?

“Abortion pill” is the common name for using 2 medicines to end a pregnancy — mifepristone and misoprostol. Mifepristone is the first pill you will take which is used to end the pregnancy. Pregnancy needs a hormone called progesterone to grow normally. Mifepristone blocks your body’s own progesterone.

The second medicine, misoprostol, opens the cervix and makes the uterus contract so that the pregnancy tissue may pass. Sometimes, misoprostol can be taken alone to end a pregnancy.

This process is also called medication abortion.

There are a few different ways to take these medicines. We will talk to you about your choices.

Before you have an abortion, you need to know the most common benefits, risks, side effects, and other choices you have. We are happy to answer any questions you have.

What are the benefits of the abortion pill?

It is a safe and effective way to end a pregnancy.

How well does the abortion pill work?

It depends how far along you are in the pregnancy. If you are taking mifepristone and misoprostol, and

You are	It works to end the pregnancy about
8 weeks or less	94 to 98 out of 100 times, depending on when you take the misoprostol
From 8 to 9 weeks	94 to 96 out of 100 times, depending on when you take the misoprostol
From 9 to 10 weeks	91 to 93 out of 100 times when taking one dose of misoprostol 99 out of 100 times when taking two doses of misoprostol
From 10 to 11 weeks	87 out of 100 times when taking one dose of misoprostol 98 out of 100 times when taking two doses of misoprostol

Taking both mifepristone and misoprostol works better than taking misoprostol only. In general, taking misoprostol only works to end the pregnancy about 85 to 95 out of 100 times, depending on how far along you are in the pregnancy and how you take the misoprostol.

What are the risks of the abortion pill?

Using the abortion pill is very safe. But, there are risks with any medical procedure.

Risks of the abortion pill are

- The pregnancy doesn’t end — Sometimes the medicines do not end the pregnancy. If this happens, you can take more medicine or have a suction procedure to complete the abortion.
- Incomplete abortion — This means some of the pregnancy may be left inside the uterus. This may lead to heavy bleeding, infection, or both. If this happens, you may need a suction procedure, other tests or treatments.
- Blood clots in the uterus — Clots may cause cramping and belly pain. If this happens, you may need a suction procedure.

OR 714.922.4100 | SB 909.890.5511

Information for Informed Consent
USING THE ABORTION PILL

- Bleeding too much or too long — This may require treatment with medicine, a suction procedure, or a blood transfusion. Very rarely, you may have to go to the hospital for treatment.
- Infection of the uterus — Most infections can be treated with medicines. But, there is a small chance that you may need a suction procedure. Very rarely, you may have to go to the hospital for treatment.
- Allergic reaction — Some people are allergic to the medicines that are used.
- Death — Death from the abortion pill is very rare. The risk of death from continuing the pregnancy is much greater.

What are the risks of not having an ultrasound before using the abortion pill?

- You could have an ectopic pregnancy, which is a pregnancy that grows outside of the uterus (usually in the tube). This happens in 1-2% of pregnancies. An ectopic pregnancy can burst if the tube is stretched too much by the growing pregnancy. This can cause bleeding, which in some cases can lead to death. This is very rare.

If you do not have an ultrasound before using the abortion pill, it may take longer to find out that you have an ectopic pregnancy. This is why it's important to follow up to make sure the abortion pill worked.

- The abortion pill is for early pregnancies only (11 weeks or less). If the period you reported is wrong, then you could be farther along in your pregnancy. If you are more than 11 weeks along in your pregnancy, the medicines may or may not work, which might cause:
 - an abortion of a later pregnancy, a stillbirth, or delivery of a baby, which could be premature
 - very heavy bleeding or damage to your uterus.

If you have doubts about your last period, please let us know and we can do an ultrasound.

What are the side effects of the abortion pill?

Side effects usually do not last long. They usually need little or no treatment.

- Cramping is expected — It will be the worst soon after you take the misoprostol. Milder cramps may last a day or 2 after that.
- Bleeding is expected — It will be heaviest soon after you take the misoprostol. You may bleed or spot for 4 to 6 weeks after the abortion.
- Fever — Having a temperature of 99-100°F is okay.
- Other — It is common to have chills, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, back pain, and tiredness.

Besides taking the abortion pill, what other choices do I have?

If you are pregnant, you have 3 options to think about — abortion, adoption, and parenting.

There are 2 ways to have an abortion, the abortion pill and in-clinic abortion.

We can talk about any of these options with you and help you with whatever you decide to do.

OR 714.922.4100 | SB 909.890.5511

Information for Informed Consent
USING THE ABORTION PILL

What else do I need to know?

After you take the abortion pill, you must make sure the medicines worked. This can be done by having an ultrasound at the clinic or by a blood test at the clinic or lab or by taking a pregnancy test at the clinic and/or home. We will tell you how, when, and where to do this.

Misoprostol can cause birth defects if the pregnancy continues.

Having a wide range of feelings is normal. Most people feel relieved and do not regret their decision. Others may feel sadness, guilt, or regret after an abortion, just as they may after having a baby. If your mood keeps you from doing the things you usually do each day, call us. We can help or send you to someone who can.

We will also tell you other reasons to contact us.

Signature of Patient (and person authorized to sign for patient when required)

Date

Relationship to Patient: ☐ self ☐ parent ☐ legal guardian ☐ other _____

I witness that the patient received this information, said it was read and understood, and there was an opportunity to ask questions.

Signature of Witness

Date