



# Medical Abortion

## What is medical abortion?

It's the use of medication, instead of surgery, to end an early pregnancy. A product called Mifegymiso (MIFFY-guy-MEE-soh) contains two medications:

- Mifepristone causes the uterus to shed its lining
- Misoprostol causes the cervix to open and the uterus to push out the pregnancy

Mifegymiso ends up to 97% of pregnancies if used within the first 10 weeks.

## How is it taken?

**FIRST:** Take 1 mifepristone tablet and swallow it with some water.



**THEN 24 to 48 hours (1–2 days) later:** Take misoprostol. There are 2 ways you can take it:

- In your vagina—place all 4 misoprostol tablets in your vagina. Put them as high up as possible.
- By mouth—place all 4 misoprostol tablets in your mouth at the same time. Put 2 tablets on each side, between your cheek and gums. *Do not swallow these tablets.* Leave them in your mouth and let them dissolve for 30 minutes. Then drink some water to swallow any pieces that are leftover.

## What should I expect after taking these medications?

After mifepristone:

- You may have light bleeding because the pregnancy tissue has started to empty from the uterus. But most people don't feel anything at all.

After misoprostol:

- Within 3 hours—strong, painful cramping; bleeding heavier than a period, with clots as small as quarters or as big as lemons; fever over 38°
- Within 24 hours—nausea (less with vaginal route), headache, dizziness, diarrhea
- Within 2 weeks—light bleeding

Seek medical attention if you have:

- Heavy bleeding—soaking more than 2 pads per hour for 2 hours in a row.
- **Be sure to use pads, not tampons, during this time.**
- Clots larger than lemons for more than 2 hours
- Pain or cramps don't get better with pain medication
- Fever, nausea, diarrhea, or weakness 24 hours *after* taking misoprostol



Visit your health care practitioner 7 to 14 days after taking misoprostol. You can have sex as soon as you feel ready. But keep in mind that you can get pregnant again 1 week after your medical abortion. Talk to your health care practitioner about when to start your chosen birth control method.

## NOTES: