

Medical vs. Aspiration Abortion

Which is best for me?

	Medical Abortion (Mifeprex and Misoprostol medications)	Abortion by Aspiration (Vacuum Aspiration)
How is it done?	You take one pill by mouth that stops the development of the pregnancy. At home, 24-48 hours later, you insert 4 tablets into your mouth buccally (placed between the gum and cheek). Most women expel the pregnancy at home, within a couple of days, by bleeding and passing blood clots.	Aspiration abortion is generally a 5-10 minute procedure in which the doctor uses medical instruments to remove the pregnancy. The cervix is opened slightly, a small tube is inserted into the uterus, and a light suction removes the pregnancy.
How effective is it?	The procedure is 98% effective when used up to 7 weeks (49 days), 95% effective up to 9 weeks (63 days), and 92% effective up to 10 weeks (70 days) into the pregnancy. Out of every 100 women, 2-8 will need a vacuum aspiration (similar to a surgical abortion) to complete the abortion.	This procedure is over 99% effective. Out of every 500 women, one will need to repeat the vacuum aspiration. The procedure is most effective if the woman is at least 6-7 weeks into the pregnancy.
How long does it take?	It can take from one day up to several weeks for the pregnancy to be expelled.	This procedure usually takes between 5 and 10 minutes.
How painful is the procedure?	Most women report moderate to severe cramping and abdominal pain for several hours to several days after taking the tablets buccally. Prescription strength pain medication helps reduce pain. Some mild to moderate cramping may occur off and on for a couple of days.	Most women experience mild to moderate pain and cramping during the procedure. Some mild to moderate cramping may occur off and on for a couple of weeks. Ibuprofen and/or prescription pain medication helps reduce discomfort.
How much bleeding will I have? Will I pass blood clots?	Bleeding usually lasts from 9-16 days, but may occur off and on for up to 4-5 weeks. Bleeding is usually heavier than that of a normal menstrual period. One out of every 1000 women require a blood transfusion due to hemorrhage. Most women pass blood clots and tissue as part of the medical abortion procedure. Blood clots may range in size from small to the size of golf balls or lemons. Pregnancy tissue may be visible.	Bleeding usually lasts 5-7 days, but may occur off and on for up to 3 weeks after the abortion. Usually, the heaviest bleeding is no heavier than that of a normal menstrual period. Bleeding may be heaviest 3-5 days after the abortion. Some women do not bleed at all. Sometimes women will pass blood clots.
Will I miss work or school?	After taking the Mifeprex pill, most women are able to go about their normal activity. However after taking the Misoprostol tablets, women should plan to stay at home with no responsibilities (such as child care), for the next 2 to 3 days. It is helpful to avoid strenuous activity for seven days.	You should plan to rest on the day of the abortion procedure. Most women are able to return to work or school the day after the abortion. It is helpful to avoid strenuous activity for seven days.