

Pain Control for In Clinic Abortion Procedures

There are several things to consider when choosing pain control for an in clinic abortion procedure. The first is how many weeks pregnant you are. If it is 15 weeks or more since the first day of your last menstrual period you will receive IV (intravenous) pain medication. If you are less than 15 weeks since your last menstrual period you have three options. The following chart can help you compare the advantages and disadvantages of the three options available. Please be sure to ask all of your questions about pain control. We want you to be comfortable with your choices.

	Local Anesthesia Only	Minimal Sedation	Moderate Sedation
What is it?	Numbing medicine injected into your cervix like the dentist uses when they numb your mouth.	Numbing medicine in your cervix with the addition of some anti-anxiety medicine and a pain pill that you take by mouth.	Numbing medicine in your cervix with the addition of medicine in an IV for anxiety and pain.
How effective is it?	Many women tolerate the procedure very well.	More pain and anxiety relief than just numbing medicine alone.	Good pain relief during and after the procedure for most women.
What are the side effects?	None	You may be a little sleepy. You should not drive until the next day. You may have some nausea.	You will be pretty sleepy. You cannot drive for the rest of the day and someone should stay with you for a couple of hours. You may have some nausea. The anti-anxiety medicine usually makes women forget the procedure and sometimes the whole day.
Can my support person be in the room with me?	Yes	Yes	No
What does it cost?	Included in the cost for all in clinic procedures	Included in the cost for all in clinic procedures	Included in the cost for all in clinic procedures 15 weeks and over. There is an extra charge if you are less than 15 weeks.
Can I drive myself home?	Yes	No	No
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can drive yourself • Your support person can come in with you • No side effects • No need for an IV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your support person can come in with you • No need for an IV • Less nausea and vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More effective pain and anxiety control • You may sleep through the procedure • You may forget the procedure or the whole day
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not always adequate pain control for women with low pain tolerance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not always adequate pain control for women with low pain tolerance • You cannot drive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs an IV • Additional cost if you are under 15 weeks • You cannot drive • More nausea • Someone should stay with you for several hours after you get home • Support person cannot be in the room with you