

Planned Parenthood Association of Utah

Early Abortion Options

	Abortion Pill / Medication Abortion Up to 9 weeks since Last Menstrual Period <i>(With Mifepristone and Misoprostol)</i>	In-Clinic Abortion <i>(Suction or Vacuum Aspiration)</i>
How many appointments are needed?	Three visits are required. A pre-visit at least 72 hours prior to the abortion to comply with state laws, the medication visit, and a follow-up visit.	Two visits are required: A pre-visit at least 72 hours prior to the abortion to comply with state laws, and the procedure visit. A follow-up visit is offered, but usually not necessary.
What will happen?	<p>The abortion takes place at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the office</i>, you swallow the abortion pill (mifepristone). Most women feel fine after taking mifepristone. Some women have nausea. • <i>At home</i>, 24 - 48 hours later, you insert the misoprostol pills between your cheek and gum. After 30 minutes, any undissolved pieces of pills are swallowed. • Bleeding and cramping usually starts 1-4 hours after you take the misoprostol. You may have heavy bleeding and cramps for a couple of hours to a couple of days. • You must return to the office 1-2 weeks later to ensure you are no longer pregnant . 	<p>The abortion takes place in the office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual abortion procedure takes 5 to 10 minutes. The visit will take 3-4 hours. • The doctor puts instruments in your vagina and uterus to remove the pregnancy. • If necessary, you return to the office where you had the abortion 2-3 weeks later.
How painful is it?	Women have mild to very strong cramps off and on during the abortion. Pain pills help.	Women have mild to very strong cramps during the abortion. Pain pills help.
How much will I bleed?	Heavy bleeding with clots up to the size of a lemon is common during the abortion. After that, lighter bleeding may continue off and on for 1-2 weeks or more.	Most women have light bleeding for 1-7 days. Bleeding may continue off and on for a few weeks.
What is the cost?	For both types of abortion, the cost is the same.	

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Can the abortion fail?	The pills work 98-99% of the time. If the pills fail, you must have an in-clinic abortion.	It works 99% of the time. If it fails, you must have a repeat suction procedure.
Can I still have children?	YES. Neither type of abortion lowers your chances of getting pregnant or staying pregnant in the future.	
Is it safe?	Both pills have been used safely for over 10 years. Big problems are rare. Medication abortion is at least 10 times safer than continuing a pregnancy.	In-clinic abortion has been done safely for over 25 years. Abortion in the first 12 weeks leads to very few problems. Abortion is at least 10 times safer than continuing a pregnancy.
What are the advantages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You won't have shots, anesthesia, or instruments in your body • It may feel more natural, like a miscarriage. • It can be done earlier in the pregnancy than an in-clinic abortion. • Being at home instead of in an office may be more private. <p>You can choose to have someone with you, or you can be alone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is over in a few minutes. • It works 99% of the time. • You see less bleeding than you would with a medication abortion. • Medical staff members are with you during the abortion. <p>It can be done later in the pregnancy than a medication abortion.</p>
What are the disadvantages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It takes 1-2 days to complete the abortion. • It is not the same for all women. • Bleeding can be very heavy and may last longer than with an in-clinic abortion. • Cramps can be severe and last longer than with an in-clinic abortion. • It cannot be done as late in pregnancy as an in-clinic abortion. • It cannot end a tubal pregnancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A doctor must insert instruments inside the uterus. • Anesthetics & pain medicines may cause side effects. • You have less control over the abortion procedure and who is with you. • The vacuum aspirator may seem noisy. • It cannot be done as early in pregnancy as a medication abortion. • It cannot end a tubal pregnancy.

For more information, including educational videos, visit: www.plannedparenthood.org, and clinic on the Abortion link.

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