

IN-CLINIC AND ABORTION PILL DIFFERENCES

	Abortion Pill	In-Clinic Abortion
When can it be done?	Under 9 weeks (63 days) of pregnancy (at most clinics).	Under 24 weeks of pregnancy.
How successful is it?	Up to 7 weeks - less than 1% risk of ongoing pregnancy. Up to 9 weeks - less than 3.5% risk of ongoing pregnancy. A surgical abortion may be necessary if the medication does not work as expected.	Less than 1% risk of the procedure needing to be repeated.
Number of Appointments	Minimum 4 appointments necessary (usually 1 hour each) and a follow-up appointment 1 week later.	Minimum 1 appointment necessary (usually 3 to 4 hours) and a follow-up appointment 2 to 6 weeks after procedure.
Cost	Covered by Ontario health card (OHIP)	Covered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario health card (OHIP) • Other province health card • University Health Insurance Program (UHIP) • GuardMe • Interim Federal Health Program • Department of National Defense
Cost Without Insurance Coverage	\$300 - \$476 for the medication only. Blood work, ultrasound, and clinician appointments will cost extra.	\$350 and up based on clinic and gestation. Blood work, ultrasound, and clinician appointments are included in this cost.
Is it painful?	Mild to severe cramping on and off after taking misoprostol (commonly a 1 to 4 hour period). Ibuprofen used for pain relief. Some clinicians may prescribe stronger pain relief medication.	Mild to severe cramping during the abortion. Given IV pain medication during procedure (general anesthesia available at limited locations).

Adapted from:

Canadian Institute for Health Information. (2015). Induced Abortions Reported in Canada in 2015.

Celopharma. (2016). Mifegymiso Medication Guide

Costescu, D., Guilbert, E., Bernardin, B., Black, A., Norman, W. V., Pymar, H., ... Society of Obstetrician and Gynaecologists of Canada.

(2016). Medical Abortion. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*, 38(4), 366-389. doi:10.1016/j.jogc.2016.01.002

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. (2016). Mifegymiso Online Training Modules.

	Abortion Pill	In-Clinic Abortion
How long will it take?	It usually takes several hours for the abortion to occur.	3 – 5 minutes in the procedure room.
How much bleeding will there be?	Bleeding will usually start as soon as 30 minutes after taking misoprostol and can range from light to very heavy Lasts on average 10 to 16 days.	Light to moderate bleeding may continue for up to 14 days.
Is it safe?	Yes, it is safe. Both medications have been studied formally and have been used safely in other countries since 1988 Possible complications are rare.	Yes, it is safe. In-clinic abortion has been studied formally for over 25 years. In 2015, the complication rate for this method of abortion was less than 2%.
Having children after	Being able to have children in the future is not affected, barring rare, serious complications.	
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May seem more natural • May seem less invasive • Takes place at home and may feel more comforting and private • Anyone you want can be there during the abortion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More predictable and medical staff are present • Less bleeding and cramping than with medical abortion • It takes less time and fewer appointments • Highly successful • Available later in the pregnancy
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It takes several days • It is not as predictable as an in-clinic abortion • Medications may cause side effects: nausea, vomiting and diarrhea • Cramping and bleeding can be severe and last longer than with an in-clinic abortion • Multiple visits to the provider are necessary • Can be less successful than an in-clinic abortion surgical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May seem more invasive – a physician inserts instruments inside the uterus • Anesthetics and medication used to manage pain during the procedure may cause side effects • There is a risk of complication • Less control over the abortion process and who is present • The vacuum aspirator may seem noisy

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