

Medical vs. Surgical Abortion

	Medical Abortion	Surgical Abortion
How invasive is the procedure?	This procedure allows for the abortion to occur in the privacy of your own home.	Surgical abortion requires an invasive medical procedure.
How effective is it?	The procedure is 98% effective if used during the first 7 weeks of pregnancy. The procedure is 95% effective if used during the 8 th week of pregnancy.	This procedure is over 99% effective.
How long does it take?	It can take days or 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 (placed between the gum and cheek). Usually prescription strength pain medication and ibuprofen are needed to reduce pain.	Most women experience mild to moderate pain and cramping during the procedure. After the procedure, most women report mild abdominal discomfort for the next day or two after the procedure. Usually, ibuprofen reduces pain, but occasionally prescription strength pain medication is needed.
How much bleeding will I have?	Bleeding usually lasts from 9-16 days, but it may last for as long as 3 weeks. Bleeding is usually heavier than that of a normal menstrual period	Bleeding usually lasts 5-7 days, but may last for as long as 3 weeks after the procedure. Usually, heaviest bleeding is no heavier than that of a normal menstrual period.
Will I pass blood clots?	Most women pass blood clots as part of the medical abortion procedure. With this process blood clots may range in size from small to the size of a golf ball or lemon.	Passing blood clots the size of a half dollar or smaller is normal with this procedure.
Will I miss work or school?	After taking the mifeprex pill, most women are able to go about their normal activities. However, after taking the misoprostol tablets, you should plan to stay at home with no responsibilities (such as child care) for the next 2 to 3 days.	The day of the procedure you should plan to rest afterwards. Most women are able to return to work or school the day after the procedure.