

Medication for Second Trimester Pregnancy Loss or Abortion

What are mifepristone and misoprostol?

Mifepristone (brand name Mifeprex) and misoprostol (brand name Cytotec) are pills that can be used together to induce (start) labor or prepare the cervix for a dilation and evacuation (D&E) procedure. This can apply to different circumstances such as:

- Treating a stillbirth (a baby that has died in the womb)
- Ending a pregnancy in the second trimester (abortion)

The **cervix** is the lower part of the uterus that opens into the vagina.

- **Mifepristone** blocks pregnancy hormones to prevent a pregnancy from developing when you want an abortion. It can also help prepare the cervix for labor or a dilation and evacuation (D&E) procedure in the case of a stillbirth, or an abortion.
- **Misoprostol** helps the cervix dilate (open) and helps labor begin.

Your doctor may discuss using these medications during these procedures:
Labor Induction or Dilation & Evacuation (D&E).

What should I expect with labor induction?

Labor induction is the use of medications or other methods to start labor instead of waiting for labor to begin on its own.

1. To induce labor, you may first take mifepristone at the office with your medical provider. Your doctor may send you home after.

2. Between 24 and 48 hours later, you will return to the hospital where you may take misoprostol (or other medications as ordered by your doctor) until labor begins and you deliver vaginally.

What should I expect with Dilation & Evacuation (D&E)?

Mifepristone and misoprostol can also be used to prepare for **dilation & evacuation (D&E)**, a procedure that removes a pregnancy from the uterus (does not require labor or pushing). These medications may be used along with laminaria (also called dilators) to help to slowly and safely dilate (open) the cervix. Laminaria are sterilized, dried seaweed that absorb fluid from the vagina and slowly expand to dilate your cervix.

1. You will take mifepristone first with your provider at the office; your doctor may send you home after.
2. Between 12 and 24 hours later, you will return to the hospital for your procedure. You may take misoprostol, which helps to soften the cervix so it dilates (opens) more easily.

What's normal while taking the mifepristone and misoprostol?

- Light bleeding
- Mild cramping
- Mild Nausea

When should I call the office?

Call the office if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Significant cramping
- You vomit 30 minutes or less after taking either mifepristone (you may need to take it again)
- You are soaking a full maxi pad in less than 1 hour for 2 hours or more
- You have a fever of 100.4° degrees Fahrenheit or greater

What is the contact information?

- For questions, call your provider or the women's clinic at Von Voigtlander at (734) 763-6295
- For urgent concerns listed above, call Triage at (734) 764-8134
- For additional support, visit Exhale the after-abortion hotline:
<https://exhaleprovoice.org/>

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