

Harris Institute for Reproductive Health, Augusta

Comparing Early Abortion Options

Medication Abortion

High success rate (about 97%)

Requires a minimum of two visits to the clinic

Two medications are used to end the pregnancy:
Mifeprex (mifepristone) and misoprostol

Must be 35 - 70 days (5-10 weeks) from last menstrual period

Requires ultrasound on day medication given

Woman has more involvement in abortion, self-administers the second medication

May take several hours or a day to a few days to complete

Bleeding is often heavy with clots and cramping, although this varies

Complications rare

Considerations for Medication Abortion:

- Living arrangements & support person(s)
- Work & school schedules
- Travel & vacation plans
- Parenting responsibilities
- Privacy & confidentiality
- Ability to swallow a pill
- Ability to insert tablets into your vagina
- There may be other factors that prevent you from having a medication abortion

Aspiration Abortion

High success rate (about 99%)

Requires one visit to the clinic

Vacuum aspiration using instruments within the uterus ends the pregnancy

Beyond 70 days from last menstrual period, aspiration is the only option

Requires ultrasound and pelvic examination

Physician performs aspiration procedure

Procedure is completed in 10-15 minutes

Bleeding is usually light to moderate with few clots and some cramping, although this varies

Complications rare

Considerations for Aspiration Abortion:

- Living arrangements & support person(s)
- Work & school schedules
- Travel & vacation plans
- Parenting responsibilities
- Privacy & confidentiality
- There may be factors that prevent you from having an aspiration procedure at our clinic