

## COMPARISON OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ABORTION

### Medical Abortion with Mifepristone - Misoprostol

### Surgical Vacuum Aspiration Abortion

<b>How far along in the pregnancy can I be?</b>	Up to 10 weeks for best success (97%). Success rates decrease as the pregnancy advances.	First trimester is through 12 weeks. A pregnancy less than 6 weeks may increase the chance of failed abortion.
<b>How long does it take?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Usually 2 or more visits to the provider.</li> <li>-Take mifepristone on day 1.</li> <li>-Take misoprostol buccally on day 2, 3, or 4.</li> <li>-It usually takes several hours for the abortion to occur.</li> <li>-Follow-up appointment scheduled one week from first appointment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-One 3-4 hour visit to the clinic.</li> <li>-The abortion procedure takes 3 to 5 minutes.</li> <li>-Follow-up visit at your personal doctor or clinic, or here, in 3-4 weeks.</li> </ul>
<b>How painful is it?</b>	From mild to very strong cramping off and on throughout the abortion (commonly a 1 to 3 hour period). Pain pills are provided for use as needed.	From mild to very strong cramping during the abortion (commonly a 5 to 10 minute period). Pain medication is available during and afterwards.
<b>How much will I bleed?</b>	Heavy bleeding and passing clots is common during the abortion. Afterwards, lighter bleeding or spotting is common for 4 weeks or longer.	Usually light to moderate bleeding which may continue for up to 3-4 weeks.
<b>How much does it cost?</b>	\$600 at Cedar River Clinics, at the bottom of our sliding fee scale, if you qualify. Most insurance, including DSHS, can be used.	\$600 (up to 12.0 weeks) at the bottom of our sliding fee scale, if you qualify. Most insurance, including DSHS, can be used.
<b>Can the abortion fail?</b>	97% successful. When it fails, a surgical abortion is necessary.	Over 99% successful. Less than 1% of the time it fails and needs to be repeated.
<b>Is it safe, and can I still have children afterwards?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Both medications have been formally studied and used safely. Possible complications are rare.</li> <li>-Childbearing ability is not affected, barring rare serious complications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Surgical abortion has been formally studied for over 25 years. First trimester abortion has less than 1% complication rate, and is at least 10 times safer than childbirth.</li> <li>-Childbearing ability is not affected, barring rare serious complications.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the advantages?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It may seem more natural, like a miscarriage.</li> <li>-No shots, anesthesia, instruments, or vacuum aspirator machine, unless it fails.</li> <li>-The pregnancy can be ended earlier than a Surgical Abortion can be performed.</li> <li>-Being at home instead of a clinic may seem more comforting and private.</li> <li>-Any support person can be there during the abortion process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It's quick, over in a few minutes.</li> <li>-It's highly successful.</li> <li>-There's less bleeding than with Medical Abortion.</li> <li>-There's less time spent cramping than with Medical Abortion.</li> <li>-Medical staff is present.</li> <li>-It can be done farther along in the pregnancy than Medical Abortion.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the disadvantages?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It takes several days.</li> <li>-It is not completely predictable.</li> <li>-Bleeding can be very heavy and lasts longer than with a surgical.</li> <li>-Cramping can be severe and usually lasts longer than with a surgical.</li> <li>-Two visits to the provider are necessary, and possibly more.</li> <li>-Although incomplete abortion is rare, it occurs slightly more frequently with Medical than with Surgical Abortion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A clinician must insert instruments inside the uterus.</li> <li>-Anesthetics and drugs to manage pain during the procedure may cause side effects.</li> <li>-There are possible complications, although in less than 1% of cases.</li> <li>-The woman has less control over the abortion process and who is with her.</li> <li>-The vacuum aspirator may seem noisy.</li> <li>-It can't be done as early in the pregnancy as with Medical Abortion.</li> </ul>