

The Early Option Pill



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What is the Early Option Pill, "The Abortion Pill?" It is a way to end pregnancy without surgery using the drug Mifeprex. Mifeprex is the "abortion pill" you've heard about and it is available in the U.S. Mifeprex can be taken from the time a woman knows she is pregnant up to ten weeks after the beginning of the last menstrual period.

How does it work? Mifeprex blocks the hormone necessary to maintain a pregnancy. When followed by a second medicine, misoprostol, the uterus contracts to expel the pregnancy.

How effective is the early option pill? Mifeprex followed by misoprostol is approximately 92-95% effective in ending pregnancy. A few women who take Mifeprex will need a surgical abortion to end the pregnancy or to stop heavy bleeding. In the past decade more than half a million women in Europe have used this drug for successfully ending early pregnancy.

What will I experience during the abortion? For most women, it is like an early miscarriage. Bleeding and cramping are a normal part of the process. Side effects that may occur include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, fatigue and back pain. You can take a pain reliever to help with the discomfort.

How long does it take? On day one you will be given Mifeprex. 24 to 48 hours later, you will take misoprostol. Almost all women expel the pregnancy within 24 hours after taking the combined drug regimen. The expulsion process can last one to four hours. After the pregnancy is expelled, the cramping should subside and bleeding should be minimal. Most women can expect to bleed or spot for an average of nine to 16 days.

How is the Early Option Pill provided? There are two steps and at least two visits to WHS. On the first day you will receive counseling to understand how this option works and answer your questions. You

will have an ultrasound, a physical exam and a pregnancy test to determine that you are ten weeks (70 days) pregnant or less. You will be given Mifeprex to start the abortion process. Some women will begin spotting after taking Mifeprex. 24 to 48 hours later you will take Misoprostol at home and you will begin to bleed. Most women expel the pregnancy within 6 hours after taking the Misoprostol. You will return to the clinic for a check-up to make sure the abortion is complete.

How will I know if the procedure was successful? The check up visit is very important because this will confirm that the abortion was successful and complete. If the abortion was successful no further follow up appointments are needed. If the abortion was not successful or is incomplete, a suction abortion will be performed. If the procedure is incomplete, heavy bleeding and infection can occur if left untreated. It is very important that you have a check up because if the pregnancy has not ended, there may be a chance of birth defects for a growing fetus or harmful infections for the pregnant woman.

Is the Early Option Pill right for me? Call Women's Health Specialists to discuss if this option is best for you. Women should not take Mifeprex if over ten weeks pregnant, have an ectopic pregnancy, are taking certain medications or have certain health concerns. You must be able to return to the clinic for necessary visits and be able to get emergency help.

When can I begin birth control? You can become pregnant right after your pregnancy ends. If you do not want to become pregnant again, you can start using birth control as soon as your pregnancy ends or before you start having sexual intercourse again. WHS can provide you with birth control at your check up visit.

How can I get an appointment or more information? Call Women's Health Specialists. Our telephone counselors are available to discuss your options, answer all your questions and make your appointment.