

## COMPARISON OF SURGICAL AND MEDICAL ABORTION

Surgical Abortion	Medical Abortion
Suitable for 6 – 14 weeks since first day of last period	Suitable for 7 weeks since first day of last period
>99% effective	95% effective
One clinic visit	At least 2 clinic visits
5 -10 minute procedure in hospital	Miscarriage completed within 24 hours at home but may take longer (days or weeks)
Professional care provided in an accredited hospital	Care is provided by patient's support person at home
Anaesthesia required	No anaesthesia required
Light to moderate bleeding after procedure	Heavy bleeding with clots
Mild to moderate cramping	Moderate to severe cramping
No other side effects	Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
Recovery within 24 hours	Recovery may take longer (days or weeks)
No deaths in Australia	One death in Australia in 2011
Generally safe for women of all ages	<p>Limited safety information on the use of drugs in women <b>under 18 years</b> of age; plus</p> <p><b>NOT recommended</b> for women with <b>hypersensitivity</b> to active substances; chronic <b>adrenal failure</b>; severe disease (e.g. asthma uncontrolled by treatment) that necessitates exogenous <b>steroid administration</b>; and <b>hypocoagulation diseases</b>.</p>

### References

1. Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Termination of pregnancy: a resource for health professionals. RANZCOG (2005)
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3. Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. National evidence-based guidelines: the care of women requesting an induced abortion. London: RCOG (2004)
4. Frequently asked clinical questions about medical abortion. WHO publication (2006)
5. Product Information. Mifepristone Linepharma 200mg tablet. September 2012