

Comparison of medical and surgical abortion

MEDICAL ABORTION	SURGICAL ABORTION
High success rate 95-98%	Very high success rate >99%
Anaesthesia not required (however there is 2-5% failure and a surgical abortion may be necessary)	Anaesthesia required. Intravenous sedation is most commonly used but this a very safe type of anaesthesia
Resembles a miscarriage. Pain and bleeding are variable from mild to moderate to severe	A doctor performs the procedure and the procedure is done whilst you are asleep making it painless
Miscarriage is usually completed within 24 hours of taking the second medication but may take days or weeks to complete	The procedure is completed within 5 -10 mins
Post procedure bleeding may last longer than surgical abortion and women may see pregnancy tissue and blood clots	Post procedure bleeding is usually less than medical abortion and rarely lasts longer than 2 weeks.
Requires a minimum of 2 visits to the clinic 2 weeks apart	Only 1 visit to the clinic is required and the consultation and procedure are done at the same visit (usually no more than 2 hours)
May be performed in early pregnancy	May be performed in early pregnancy up to 14 weeks at our centre
Usually avoids the use of surgical instruments	Instrumentation of cervix and uterus required
Both drugs are administered orally or vaginally and the miscarriage may occur in privacy of your own home	The procedure is carried out at our centre and requires a 2 hour visit involving the consultation, procedure and recovery. You cannot drive home and have to fast for 6 hours prior