

What can be expected when using Misoprostol

- ▶ You may experience strong abdominal pains as your uterus contracts. Taking the prescribed pain relief tablets should relieve these. Hot packs may also be useful.
- ▶ You may experience heavy vaginal bleeding. If your pad is soaked every 30 minutes or more often you must return to the Emergency Centre.
- ▶ Common misoprostol side effects may include: fever, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea. These are usually self limiting and last a few hours.

When should I seek help or return to the Emergency Centre?

- ▶ If you have a large amount of vaginal blood loss (blood-soaked pad every 30 minutes or sooner).
- ▶ If you have pain not controlled with tablets and hot packs.
- ▶ If you are concerned or worried.

Phone (08) 6458 1431 and speak to staff in the Emergency Centre.

Women and Newborn Health Service
King Edward Memorial Hospital
374 Bagot Road, Subiaco WA 6008
Telephone: (08) 6458 2222
www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au



This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

Produced by Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Care Unit
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Government of Western Australia
North Metropolitan Health Service
Women and Newborn Health Service

Medical management of early pregnancy loss

What is misoprostol?

Misoprostol is a type of prostaglandin hormone. One of its effects is to cause the uterus (womb) to contract. Studies have shown that misoprostol can be used safely and effectively for treatment of early pregnancy loss. This treatment is not the morning after pill.

The hormone induces contractions that open the cervix (neck of the womb). The pregnancy tissue can then pass from the uterus without the need for surgery.

Misoprostol therapy is suitable when:

- ▶ your pregnancy is not going to continue and
- ▶ your pregnancy gestation is less than 12 weeks.

Misoprostol therapy is not suitable when there is:

- ▶ Heavy vaginal bleeding
- ▶ Strong abdominal cramps and pains
- ▶ History of allergy to misoprostol or other prostaglandin
- ▶ Possibility of an ectopic pregnancy (pregnancy implanted outside the uterus)
- ▶ Signs of pelvic infection

Advantages of misoprostol

Misoprostol offers an effective alternative to surgery as a treatment for early pregnancy loss. Surgery has its own risks including those associated with having an anaesthetic.

The treatment is given in the Emergency Centre without admission to hospital.

Treatment

Day 1

1. Attend the KEMH Emergency Centre for treatment.
2. You will be given four (4) tablets to be placed under the tongue or between the gum and cheek.
3. You will be able to go home soon after and you will be provided with a script for pain relief tablets.
4. An appointment date and time to return to EPAS in two weeks will be made.
5. If you have had no pain or bleeding in the first five (5) days, please call the Emergency Centre on 6458 1431 to book an EPAS review on Day seven (7) rather than Day 14; you may need a repeat dose of misoprostol. You will still be seen in EPAS on Day 14 regardless.

Day 14

1. Attend EPAS at the time you were given.
2. An ultrasound will be done to check whether your uterus is empty. If there is no pregnancy tissue remaining in the uterus, your treatment is complete.
3. If there is still pregnancy tissue remaining in the uterus, the misoprostol treatment is repeated or you could have a surgical procedure called a 'D&C' (dilatation and curettage).

If you decide to have a second dose of misoprostol:

- ▶ You will be given an appointment to attend EPAS in one week's time for a repeat ultrasound.
- ▶ If the ultrasound scan shows that your uterus still contains remains of the pregnancy, a surgical procedure called a 'D&C' (dilatation and curettage) will be recommended. The surgery will be scheduled as soon as possible.