

Chemical Abortion and Abortion Pill Reversal



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What is Chemical Abortion?

A chemical (or medical) abortion is a non-surgical form of abortion in which the mother takes the pills Mifepristone (RU-486) and Misoprostol (or Cytotec) to end the preborn human life. The drugs are approved by the FDA for use up to ten weeks from the first day of her last menstrual period (LMP).

1. The mother visits an abortion clinic or doctor's office and ingests Mifepristone (RU-486) at the clinic.
2. This drug blocks the action of the hormone called "progesterone," which is naturally produced by the mother's body to enable the mother to sustain and nourish the pregnancy. When RU-486 blocks progesterone, the lining of the mother's uterus breaks down, cutting off blood and nourishment to the fetus, who then dies inside the mother's womb.
3. Twenty-four to forty-eight hours later, the mother ingests Misoprostol (also called Cytotec), administered orally or vaginally, which causes contractions and bleeding to expel the fetus from the womb.

Abortion Pill Reversal (APR)

If a mother has changed her mind about aborting, there is an option to reverse the abortion pill before the Misoprostol is taken. The abortion pill reversal process is as follows:

1. An ultrasound will be done as soon as possible to confirm heart rate, placement, and dating of the pregnancy.
2. The doctor or other medical provider will prescribe progesterone, given as a pill to be taken orally or vaginally or possibly by intramuscular injection.
3. The treatment will usually continue through the first trimester of pregnancy.



Mifepristone blocks progesterone's actions by binding to progesterone receptors in the uterus and the placenta. Progesterone is the natural hormone in a woman's body that is necessary to nurture and sustain a pregnancy. By giving extra progesterone, we hope to outnumber and outcompete the mifepristone in order to reverse the effects of mifepristone. Initial studies of APR have shown that APR has a 64-68% success rate.

Child Development at Time of Chemical Abortion

Chemical abortions via abortion pills are performed on mothers who are up to ten weeks pregnant. See the following for information about fetal development up to the age of ten weeks LMP.

Weeks 4-5: the baby's organs start to develop, and the heart begins to beat.

Week 8: the preborn baby's hands and feet are developing, and the neural pathways in the baby's brain start to form. The child is constantly moving in the uterus, although the mother cannot feel it.

Week 9: the child can suck its thumb, open and close its jaw, stretch, and sigh. The baby's teeth begin to form and the heart completes dividing into four chambers.