



HOW DO I CHOOSE BETWEEN A SURGICAL AND A MEDICAL ABORTION?

Now that medical abortion is widely available in Canada, you may be unsure which procedure is right for you. Here are some pointers to help you decide:

- A surgical abortion, or a D&C, is performed by a physician using instruments rather than medication. It is a safe and simple procedure that takes less than five minutes. There is no cutting or stitching involved.
- A medical abortion terminates a pregnancy by taking two different medications and inducing a miscarriage at home. In Canada medical abortion is usually induced using the Abortion Pill - Mifepristone - up to 9wks gestation.

There are some of the differences between Surgical and Medical abortion options:

Medical Abortion	Surgical Abortion
1) Up to 9 weeks gestation	1) From 3 - 19.6 weeks gestation
2) One visit but a follow-up blood test is required to make sure the procedure was successful.	2) The whole procedure can be done in a single visit. A follow-up visit is offered.
3) Miscarriage at home over one to two days	3) Takes place in a clinic or health care centre; visit for 2-3 hours, procedure takes about five minutes
4) 95% success rate; failures need to be treated with a surgical abortion	4) 99% success rate at the time of the procedure
5) Pain medication will be provided to take home	5) Intravenous pain medication is provided during the procedure
6) Bleeding, cramping, nausea, and diarrhoea are side effects. A small risk of heavy bleeding and infection.	6) There is a small risk of cervical or uterine injury. A small risk of heavy bleeding or infection. You cannot drive for 24 hours after receiving sedating medication.
7) You will need to have one or more free days (no work or childcare) in order to have the miscarriage, in addition to the date of your clinic visit. You will need to have access to emergency services such as a hospital in case of heavy bleeding, and another adult available to assist you.	7) The procedure is completed on the same day at the clinic for pregnancies less than 16 weeks. You do not need to be accompanied