



# CHEMICAL ABORTION FAST FACTS

*If you or a woman you know has begun a chemical abortion, there may still be hope to reverse it and save the baby's life. Call the abortion pill reversal hotline at (877) 558-0333 or visit [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com) immediately.*

## WHAT CHEMICAL ABORTION IS

The two-pill chemical abortion regimen, commonly referred to as “medication” or “medical” abortion by the abortion industry, consists of the drugs mifepristone (Mifeprex<sup>®</sup>, also known as RU-486 or simply “the abortion pill”) and misoprostol.

## HOW IT WORKS

Mifepristone is an anti-progesterone, which blocks a pregnant mother's flow of progesterone—the hormone that stabilizes the uterine wall and nourishes the unborn child. Without progesterone, the uterine lining deteriorates, and the unborn child—cut off from nourishment—dies.<sup>1</sup> Misoprostol then forces intense uterine contractions, with the intent of expelling the aborted baby and other embryonic tissues to complete the procedure.<sup>2</sup>

## THE NEW COAT HANGER

Chemical abortion poses a threat not only to the unborn child in the womb but also to the mother's physical wellbeing. Health risks associated with chemical abortions include severe bleeding, infection, retained fetal parts, the need for emergency surgery, and even death. Women may also experience cramping, bleeding, hemorrhage requiring transfusions, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and headache. Bleeding may continue for up to 30 days.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the woman, who may or may not have health insurance coverage, is generally expected to bear the additional cost of these complications.

## THE TOOL OF ABUSERS, RAPISTS, PIMPS, AND TRAFFICKERS

Pimps will often force the women they are trafficking to undergo abortions in order to maximize their efficiency in the sex trade. In one study of women who survived human trafficking, over half of the survey respondents reported having at least one abortion, while almost a third reported having multiple abortions.<sup>4</sup>

The sex trafficking industry benefits immensely from chemical abortion because it allows traffickers to conduct abortions without giving their victims an opportunity to escape or seek help during an in-person abortion. It also lets traffickers force women to undergo abortions without their knowledge or consent. The same applies to any instance of abuse or rape.

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## THE DANGERS OF DO-IT-YOURSELF ABORTIONS

Historically, mifepristone has had an in-person dispensing requirement as a safety precaution. However, on December 16, 2021, the Biden administration permanently removed the in-person dispensing requirement for mifepristone. This has allowed abortion pills to become more readily available through the pharmacy and the mail and with less physician oversight.

In addition to aiding abusers and traffickers, receiving chemical abortion pills by mail without visiting a doctor creates an added layer of danger for women. When a mother attempts an abortion without first obtaining an ultrasound, she may unknowingly be carrying an ectopic pregnancy, which poses extreme danger to her life if left undiagnosed and untreated. The chemical abortion regimen is in no way a treatment for ectopic pregnancy. If a mother is unaware that she is Rh negative, having a chemical abortion could leave her permanently infertile, as a RhoGAM shot must be administered to moms who are Rh negative to ensure future pregnancies can be carried safely to term.

## THE UNFORTUNATE UPWARD TREND

By 2020, only 20 years after the Food and Drug Administration approved mifepristone for abortion use, chemical abortion accounted for more than half of all U.S. abortions.<sup>5</sup> The abortion industry has been driving this rapid increase because it regards discrete, do-it-yourself abortions as the best means of getting around the many state-level pro-life laws being enacted around the country, especially in the post-*Roe* landscape.<sup>6</sup>

## THE HOPE OF REVERSAL

Even after ingesting mifepristone, there may still be hope of reversing the abortion and saving the child's life. The chemical abortion reversal pill, which consists of the natural hormone progesterone, can outcompete the inhibitor drug mifepristone and reverse its effects without causing any harm to the mother or her baby. If action is taken immediately, medical professionals have been successful almost 70 percent of the time at reversing the abortion pill with progesterone.<sup>7</sup>

*For more information, visit [www.frc.org/chemicalabortion](http://www.frc.org/chemicalabortion)*

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### Endnotes

- 1 Donna Harrison, "Contraception after Conception?" *National Review*, April 18, 2014, <https://www.nationalreview.com/2014/04/contraception-after-conception-donna-harrison/>.
- 2 "Full Prescribing Information – Mifeprex®," Food and Drug Administration, accessed August 19, 2022, [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2019/020687s022lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2019/020687s022lbl.pdf).
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Laura J. Lederer and Christopher A. Wetzel, "The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities," *Annals of Health Law* 23, no. 1 (2014): 61-91, <https://www.icmec.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Health-Consequences-of-Sex-Trafficking-and-Implications-for-Identifying-Victims-Lederer.pdf>.
- 5 Rachel K. Jones et al., "Medication Abortion Now Accounts for More Than Half of All US Abortions," Guttmacher Institute, February 24, 2022, <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortions>.
- 6 Megan K. Donovan, "Self-Managed Medication Abortion: Expanding the Available Options for U.S. Abortion Care," Guttmacher Institute, October 17, 2018, <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2018/10/self-managed-medication-abortion-expanding-available-options-us-abortion-care>.
- 7 "Overview," Abortion Pill Reversal, accessed August 19, 2022, <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com/abortion-pill-reversal/overview>.

