

Appendix A: Vacuum aspiration and medical abortion for first trimester induced abortion

	Vacuum Aspiration	Mifepristone and Misoprostol MA	Misoprostol-Only MA
What is it?	A procedure that uses electric or manual suction instruments to evacuate the uterus to remove the pregnancy by suction	Medications taken together that cause the uterus to expel the pregnancy	A medication that causes the uterus to expel the pregnancy
How does it work?	The pregnancy is removed from the uterus through a cannula attached to an electric pump or handheld aspirator.	Mifepristone makes the pregnancy detach from the side of the uterus. Misoprostol causes contractions that expel the pregnancy.	Misoprostol causes contractions that expel the pregnancy.
When can it be used?	From detection of pregnancy to 13 weeks (throughout first trimester).	From detection of pregnancy to 13 weeks (throughout first trimester).	From detection of pregnancy to 13 weeks (throughout first trimester)
Where can it be used?	In a health care facility	Mifepristone (first pill) is usually given at the clinic. Misoprostol (second set of pills), may be taken at clinic or home for women with pregnancies under 10 weeks. For pregnancies from 10-13 weeks, women should take misoprostol in the facility.	Misoprostol may be taken at clinic or home for women with pregnancies under 9 weeks. For pregnancies from 9-13 weeks, women should take misoprostol in the facility.
How effective is it?	97% to 99.5% effective	95% to 98% effective	83%-87% effective
Safe and effective?	Yes	Yes	Yes
For young women as for adults?	Yes	Yes	Yes
What are the side effects?	Bleeding and cramping.	Bleeding and cramping are expected. Possible side effects are: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever/chills or dizziness.	Bleeding and cramping are expected. Possible side effects are: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fever/chills or dizziness.
What are possible complications?	Rare complications include injury to the uterus or cervix, excessive bleeding, infection, blood collecting in the uterus, or incomplete abortion. Failed MVA occurs in less than 1% of women, especially when performed by a skilled provider.	Rare complications include excessive bleeding, and infection. Failed MA occurs in 5% and ongoing pregnancy occurs in less than 1% of women	Rare complications include excessive bleeding, and infection. Failed MA occurs in 15% and ongoing pregnancy occurs in 4-6% of women

Appendix A: Vacuum aspiration and medical abortion for first trimester induced abortion (continued)

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How is it typically used?	<p>The pregnancy is removed with suction through a tube inserted into an electric pump or handheld aspirator. Procedure time is 2 to 10 minutes.</p> <p>Completion of the procedure is immediately confirmed, requiring only one facility visit.</p>	<p>Mifepristone is taken by mouth (swallowed).</p> <p>One or two days later, misoprostol is put either under the tongue, inside the cheek or in the vagina and then the abortion usually occurs within 4-6 hours, but can take up to several days.</p>	<p>Misoprostol is put either under the tongue or in the vagina and then the abortion usually occurs within 24 hours, but can take up to several days.</p>
What if the abortion fails?	<p>The procedure is repeated.</p>	<p>The pregnancy is removed through vacuum aspiration. If aspiration services are not available, a second dose of misoprostol can be offered with close follow-up.</p>	<p>The pregnancy is removed through vacuum aspiration.</p>