

### How Mifegyne works

Mifegyne works by blocking the effects of progesterone, a hormone which prepares the womb for pregnancy. It is used with prostaglandin, which helps the womb expel the pregnancy. Together, these drugs produce what is in effect a spontaneous abortion. It is important that, once you have started, you complete the treatment.

### Safety

Mifegyne is used world-wide and has an extremely good success, acceptability and safety record.

### Treatment

You will be given one Mifegyne table to swallow with a glass of water in the outpatient clinic. Rarely you may feel a little sick afterwards. If you vomit within two hours the drug may not be effective, and therefore, if that should happen please report back to the gynaecology clinic on direct telephone number 01234 792007, and arrangements will be made for your return for a further tablet or suppository (Stemetil) which should prevent vomiting. If you should vomit the second tablet arrangements will be made for surgical abortion.

During the next 48 hours you may start to bleed, perhaps with stomach cramps, usually easily controlled by Paracetamol tablets. It is therefore, suggested you wear a sanitary pad after the tablet is taken. There is a small chance you may expel the pregnancy although this is unlikely and difficult to tell because the pregnancy is early and small. Whether you bleed or not you should come to Orchard Gynaecology ward as arranged.

In the ward, a nurse will place four small tablets into your vagina. This will bring on bleeding and possibly stomach cramps, which may feel like a heavy period. If you need it, you will be given painkillers when you want them. You may also want to lie down for a while. About 2.5% of women experience heavy bleeding. If you have not passed the products in three hours a second dose of prostaglandin will be given (either orally or vaginally).

Women vary in their reaction to prostaglandin and you may experience a slight 'burning' feeling in the vagina, diarrhoea, sickness or dizziness. There is usually no need to worry about these, they do not last long but you should tell a nurse or doctor.

You will need to stay in the ward for at least six hours or until you and the doctor agree you are well enough to go home. Most women expel the pregnancy in two to four hours. Any fetal tissue will be treated respectfully and cremation arranged by the hospital. If you wish differently, please inform the nurse on admission.

We suggest you have breakfast before you come in and bring something to read or do to help pass the time. You should bring a supply of sanitary towels, a change of underwear and clothing and an overnight bag in case a hospital stay is necessary. Before you go home you will need an Anti-D injection if you are Rhesus Negative.

## After Treatment

You may bleed for several days after the abortion and may continue to get stomach cramps. You can take painkillers e.g. Paracetamol, but no Aspirin or Ibuprofen. It is important to ensure the abortion is complete and you are no longer pregnant, so you **MUST** do a pregnancy test three weeks after the procedure.

## PLEASE DO NOT WEAR TAMPONS UNTIL YOUR NEXT PERIOD

Pregnancy test week commencing  
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If the pregnancy test shows positive please contact the clinic on direct line telephone number (01234) 792007 as soon as possible to arrange for a scan appointment. About 1 patient in 50 will not respond to treatment and a surgical abortion will be necessary to complete the treatment.

## After Care

Do not plan anything strenuous for a couple of days following the procedure. You should avoid smoking from the time you take the Mifegyne tablet until at least two days after you have been given the medication.

Many women have a slight brown loss until their next period, which will be four weeks after treatment.

**Remember you can become pregnant again straight away and should start using contraception immediately.** It is okay to use the contraceptive pill immediately, by starting a new pack.

If you have any questions or worries telephone Orchard Gynaecology ward to speak to the sister or one of the staff nurses on direct line telephone number (01234) 792219.

## Further Information

[www.fpa.org.uk](http://www.fpa.org.uk)

[www.bpas.org](http://www.bpas.org)

[www.mariestopes.org.uk](http://www.mariestopes.org.uk)

[www.rcog.org.uk](http://www.rcog.org.uk)

[www.careconfidential.com](http://www.careconfidential.com)