

How Mifegyne Works

Mifegyne works by blocking the effects of the progesterone, a hormone which prepares the womb for pregnancy. It is followed by prostaglandin which helps the womb to 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 and acceptability record.

The treatment

You will be given one Mifegyne tablet 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 the gynaecology clinic on telephone number 01234 792007, or Orchard Gynaecology ward on 01234 792219.

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.

In the ward either a nurse or a doctor will place four small tablets into your vagina. This will bring on bleeding and pains, which will feel like a bad period. This may last two to three hours. If you need it you will be given painkiller tablets or gas and air when you need them.

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. The tablets will be given to by mouth or vaginally every three hours until the fetus and placenta is expelled. If this has not happened by the next morning more prostaglandin will be given vaginally. Occasionally you may need to have a general anaesthetic for the removal of the placenta before you go home.

You will require an Anti-D injection if you are Rhesus negative. You will need to stay in the ward for up to 48 hours or until you and the doctor agree you are well enough to go home. Most women expel the pregnancy within six hours. The fetus 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.

After Treatment

You may bleed for several days afterwards and may continue to get stomach cramps. You can take painkillers e.g. Paracetamol, but not Aspirin or Ibuprofen until after your follow up visit.

PLEASE DO NOT WEAR TAMPONS UNTIL YOUR NEXT PERIOD.

After Care

Do not plan anything strenuous for a couple of days and if possible you should not smoke or drink alcohol for at least two days after you have been given a prostaglandin pessary.

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

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

Further Information

www.fpa.org.uk

www.bpas.org

www.mariestopes.org.uk

www.rcog.org.uk

www.careconfidential.com