

Patient information

Mifepristone

What is Mifepristone and what is it used for?

Mifepristone works by blocking the effects of the hormone progesterone which is needed for a pregnancy to continue. Mifepristone can therefore cause interruption of pregnancy.

Mifepristone 200mg tablets are widely used in this country for medical interruption of pregnancy (unlicensed use), usually in combination with misoprostol (a prostaglandin), given after 36 - 48 hours. This medication can also be used to soften and open the entrance to the womb (the cervix).

In a similar way, it is used to induce miscarriage or labour, in combination with misoprostol, where sadly the pregnancy loss has already happened.

Is the treatment suitable for me?

It is suitable for most people however it is not advised to take the mifepristone if you:

- are allergic to mifepristone
- suffer from adrenal failure
- suffer from severe asthma, not adequately treated with medication
- have hereditary porphyria (an inherited disorder of blood)
- have a suspected ectopic pregnancy

It can be taken with caution, if you:

- have a heart complaint, raised blood pressure
- have liver or kidney disease
- are anaemic
- suffer from an illness that may affect the clotting of your blood

For pregnancies that have occurred with an intrauterine contraceptive device (a coil) in place, this must be removed before treatment.

If you are breast feeding, you do not need to stop. Only very small amounts of this medication have been shown to go in to the breast milk and have not shown any harmful effects in babies.

How to take Mifepristone 200mg tablets

Once the procedure for medical termination of pregnancy, termination of pregnancy for fetal anomaly or induction of miscarriage / labour in case of fetal loss has been discussed with you, and a consent form signed, a time will be arranged for the medicine to be given to you. One tablet of Mifepristone 200mg should be swallowed with some water. This needs to happen in the presence of a healthcare provider. You may be asked to stay on the ward for a short while to observe for any vomiting. Please do not drink grapefruit juice when you are treated with mifepristone, as it can interfere with how the drug works. Passing of the pregnancy at an early gestation can occur suddenly and rapidly, therefore we recommend you use a designated toilet and bedpans during any admissions.

This is the first stage of treatment. Before you leave you will be given instructions on the second stage of treatment. You may feel faint, sick or have some period type cramps and bleeding, occasionally a headache or a skin rash may be experienced.

If your bleeding is very heavy, you have pain that is difficult to manage, or you think you have expelled the pregnancy prior to returning for the second stage of treatment, you must contact the Gynaecology Ward on 01284 713235, or Labour Suite/The Helpline in case of fetal loss or termination for fetal anomaly, on 01284 713272/01284 713755, because it is important to confirm that the termination is complete.

Can I take other medicines?

It is safe to take paracetamol and ibuprofen for pain relief with the use of mifepristone.

Smoking and drinking

You are advised not to smoke or drink alcohol once you have taken the Mifepristone tablet and until two days after the miscarriage.

What if I change my mind?

You should be very certain about your decision to have an induced miscarriage before you take the Mifepristone tablet.

If you decide to continue this pregnancy, once you have taken the mifepristone, you need to know that there is an unknown risk to the foetus and the baby may be born with abnormalities.

If the termination of pregnancy fails and you still want a termination, another method will be used to terminate the pregnancy. The options will be discussed with you if this happens.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk>

