

Medical Abortion in Manitoba

Who is Eligible?

Dr. Carol Scurfield

- No Conflict of Interest.
- Salaried physician at Women's Health Clinic in Winnipeg.

Medical Abortion

- Prescription Medication
- Can be prescribed by physician or a nurse practitioner. No extra training required.
- Mifepristone – a progesterone antagonist
- Misoprostal – a prostaglandin
- Success usually measured by adequate drop in serum BHCG or ultrasound exam.

Women's experience

- Very similar to a spontaneous abortion.
- Became available in Canada 2017.
- Very popular among eligible women.
- 96% to 98% effective depending on gestational age

Eligibility – Gestational age of pregnancy

- Pregnancy of 63 days (9 weeks) or less and intrauterine (ideally u/s confirmed) in Canada 56 days (8 weeks) in Manitoba
- Do not have to have an ultrasound if can confidently assess dates to be within eligible range (combination of certain dates/bimanual examination)
- Office ultrasound if available.

Eligibility

- Age 16 years and up
- Must have a health card at HSC.
- No parental consent needed but is encouraged if under 18 years.

Eligibility

- No contraindication to medications
- Contraindications for Misoprostol
 - uncontrolled severe asthma
 - inflammatory bowel disease
- Allergy to mifepristone or misoprostol
- Not on anticoagulant or chronic oral steroids (puffer for asthma ok)

Eligibility

No medical condition that would increase complication risk

- cardiac disease
- renal failure
- severe liver disease
- bleeding disorder
- porphyria
- adrenal failure
- anemia with hemoglobin less than 95
- severe uncontrolled asthma

Eligibility

- Sure of decision to terminate pregnancy
(concern re increased risk of genetic abnormalities – ie Mobius Syndrome)
- Willing to have surgical abortion if medical abortion fails

Eligibility

- Access to emergency care if needed – distance to medical care.
- HSC requires woman to live within 1 hour of Health Sciences.
- WHC requires access to appropriate Emergency care.
- Access to a phone to call for help and for follow up
- Transportation
- Willingness to have second blood test.
- *Access to a washroom
- *Privacy

What if they are breast feeding?

- Debate on this subject.
- No problem with mifepristone.
- Misoprostol may cause diarrhea in breastfeeding infant. May consider “pumping and dumping” for 8 to 24 hours after but many suggest no need

What if they have an IUD in place?

- The IUD must be removed before the medication is given.
- Consideration must be given to whether this pregnancy is ectopic.
- Ideally an ultrasound is done to ensure intrauterine pregnancy before the medical abortion.

What if the pregnancy is ectopic?

- Mifegymiso will not work if the pregnancy is not in the uterus (methotrexate would be the medication used by Gynecologists)
- If you have a high index of suspicion or are certain that this is ectopic a specialist should be consulted.
- If a woman takes mifegymiso and turns out to have an ectopic pregnancy the BHCG will not drop appropriately which will signal to the physician that she needs assessment/treatment for an ectopic pregnancy.

Cost

- Approximately \$ 320. 00 depending on where dispensed. Pain meds additional cost.
- Cost is covered if receive care at
 - Health Sciences Centre/Women's Hospital
 - Women's Health Clinic
 - Brandon

FNIHB covers

EIA

Private drug plans may cover

Access

- Access to a care provider who will prescribe and support if any complications limited. Needs to improve.
- Access to pharmacies who carry the medication.
- Ability to get an appointment quickly to ensure within gestational age to be eligible for service and for follow up.

Contact Information for Current covered providers.

- Women's Health Clinic – 204-477-1887
204-947-1517
- Health Sciences Centre – 204-787-1980 PPAC
- Brandon – Brandon Clinic 204-728-4440 Station 6
or 7th Street Access Centre 204-578-4800

Contact Us

204-947-1517

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