



RU-486

What is it?

- ❖ RU-486, also called non-surgical abortion, or medical abortion, is an FDA-approved synthetic steroid compound used to terminate pregnancies up to **49 days gestation**. It consists of two drugs: (1) Mifepristone (2) Misoprostol.
- ❖ It should not be confused with "Plan B," which is an emergency contraception that prevents pregnancy

How do I take RU-486?

- ❖ Under the FDA-approved regimen, a 600 mg dose of Mifepristone is administered orally by a clinician following a counseling session.
- ❖ Two days later, a clinician administers 400 µg Misoprostol, in the form of vaginal suppositories, to induce contractions
- ❖ When used in combination, these two medications are 95-97% effective

How does the Abortion Pill work?

- ❖ **Mifepristone** blocks the hormone progesterone, which is needed to maintain pregnancy. This causes the uterine lining to shed, the cervix to soften and bleeding may occur
- ❖ When **Misoprostol** is taken, the uterus begins to contract and the pregnancy is usually expelled within 6-8 hours
 - Cramping may come in waves of decreasing and increasing intensity. You can expect bleeding heavier than a menstrual period with large clots.
 - During this time the embryo is expelled
- ❖ A follow up exam is scheduled for 2 weeks later to ensure efficacy
- ❖ Side effects may include bleeding, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and cramping
 - In clinical trials, bleeding or spotting lasted for an average of 9-16 days

Where can I obtain RU-486 in New York City?

- ❖ You can obtain RU-486 from a clinic or doctor's office
- ❖ Because it can be used only during early stages of pregnancy, you must come in for your appointment before you are 63 days from the day your last period began.

What is the price of RU-486?

- ❖ Nationwide, the price of the Abortion Pill varies between \$350-575.
 - This price includes two-three office visits, ultrasound, and the combination of medication

Getting past the myths about RU-486:

- ❖ **Myth 1 – Using RU-486 will prevent or risk pregnancy in the future**
 - False. Researchers have found no connection between RU-486 and future pregnancies. It does not increase the risk of future miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, preterm delivery or low birth weight babies.
- ❖ **Myth 2 – RU-486 is not safe**
 - False. The FDA has tested RU-486 for both safety and effectiveness, and has approved it. It is now approved for use in more than 29 countries, including the U.S. and most European countries.

Additional resources

- ❖ www.medicationabortion.com
- ❖ www.earlyoptions.org