



Inevitable Miscarriages Information and Consent Form

You have been diagnosed with a “missed abortion” or early fetal demise. Unfortunately the fetus is not viable and is no longer alive. You have not done anything wrong and no one has caused this unfortunate event.

There are three alternatives available:

1. you can wait for the pregnancy tissue to pass on its own
2. you can have a surgical dilation and curettage (D&C)
3. you can use a medication (misoprostol) to cause the uterus to pass the tissue

Reports in the medical literature have shown that misoprostol is effective for this purpose. Although misoprostol is not FDA approved for this use, the scientific literature supports its use. In your case, misoprostol can be used to medically induce a miscarriage and possibly avoid a surgical D&C. Since the fetus is no longer alive, misoprostol will cause the uterus to contract and help empty the uterus.

Misoprostol in the form of tablets can be taken either by mouth or placed in your vagina. You may start cramping and bleeding within two hours or it may take longer. Most women will pass the pregnancy within one day.

Possible side effects of the misoprostol include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. These side effects are usually limited to one day. You will probably have heavy bleeding and cramping during the miscarriage, but this should be limited to one day. Rarely, a surgical D&C may be needed if the bleeding does not slow by itself or the miscarriage is incomplete.

Misoprostol is known to cause birth defects when given in early pregnancy. Every effort has been made to be sure you do not have a viable pregnancy within the uterus. The possibility always exists that we are wrong; in the rare event that you have an ongoing intrauterine pregnancy after taking this drug, birth defects or miscarriage could occur.

If you don't think the passage of the pregnancy has occurred within 48 hours after the initial dose, you may repeat the dose of misoprostol in 48 hours. Refill of the misoprostol prescription has been provided for this purpose.

We will need to see you for a follow-up appointment one week after the misoprostol is placed. Another exam will be performed to make sure that the miscarriage is complete.

I have read the information above. I understand that I have several options including waiting for miscarriage to occur on its own, D&C, or misoprostol. I understand the risks and benefits of, and alternatives to misoprostol. I wish to proceed with misoprostol to aid in the completion of my miscarriage.

Patient Signature

Date

Physician Signature