

## Comparison of medical and surgical abortion

| MEDICAL ABORTION  | SURGICAL ABORTION  |
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| High success rate 95-98%  | Very high success rate >99%  |
| Usually avoids the use of surgical instruments thus avoiding risk of injury to cervix and uterus                        | Instrumentation of cervix and uterus required  |
| Anaesthesia not required (however there is 2-5% failure and a surgical abortion may be necessary)                       | Anaesthesia required. Intravenous sedation is most commonly used but this a very safe type of anaesthesia. However a needle is required.   |
| Resembles a miscarriage. Pain and bleeding are variable   | A doctor performs the procedure and the procedure is done whilst you are asleep.   |
| Miscarriage is usually completed within 24 hours of taking the second medication but may take days or weeks to complete | The procedure is completed within 5-10mins   |
| Post procedure bleeding may last longer than surgical abortion and women may see pregnancy tissue and blood clots       | Post procedure bleeding is usually less than medical abortion and rarely lasts longer than 2 weeks.  |
| Requires a minimum of 2 visits to the clinic 2 weeks apart  | Only 1 visit to the clinic is required and the consultation and procedure are done at the same visit (usually no more than 2 hours)  |
| May be performed in early pregnancy up to 9 weeks from the last period  | May be performed in early pregnancy up to 14 weeks at our centre. Later gestation terminations up to 20 weeks may be performed at other centres in NSW                                       |
| Both drugs are administered orally or vaginally and the miscarriage may occur in privacy of your own home               | The procedure is carried out at our centre and requires a 2 hour visit involving the consultation, the procedure and recovery for 1 hour. You cannot drive home and have to fast for 6 hours |