

MIFEGYMISO

(RU486/The Abortion Pill)

THESE ARE VIOLENTLY ACTIVE
CHEMICALS AND THEY HAVE
VIOLENT REACTIONS ON THE
ORGANISM... WHAT IS THE
SITUATION IN WHICH A WOMAN
WOULD UNDERGO THAT KIND OF
ASSAULT?¹

— Dr. Germaine Greer



What is Mifegymiso ? (RU486/The Abortion Pill)	2
Mifegymiso - according to... Health Canada	2
Mifegymiso Restrictions	3
Something all women might wish to know	3
Side Effects of Mifegymiso	4
Finland	4
Australia	6
United States	7
Regret taking the abortion pill?	8
Resources	9

“The adverse effects of the two drugs were unpredictable and dangerous and the research undertaken inadequate.”

We concluded that the RU 486/PG abortion had the making of a new wave of DIY backyard abortions which burdened women who had decided they needed an abortion with unnecessary days of agony: haemorrhaging, vomiting, cramping and the well-founded fear of sepsis. We predicted deaths and also wondered why pro-choice activists could not see that this abortion method only benefited pharmaceutical companies and doctors.²

— Renata Klein, Pro-Choice Feminist
<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2013/09/24/3855497.htm>

**IT ISN'T SAFE OR EASY
IT ISN'T SIMPLE OR CONVENIENT
IT WON'T MAKE ABORTION RARE**

WHAT IS MIFEGYMISO?

(RU486/The Abortion Pill)



MIFEGYMISO DOES NOT PREVENT PREGNANCY but causes the induced abortion of an established pregnancy up to 7 weeks gestation, in Canada.

Mifegymiso is a combination product containing one mifepristone [RU486] 200mg tablet and four misoprostol (Gymiso) 200µg.

Mifepristone (RU486) blocks progesterone, a hormone needed to support pregnancy and provide nutrition to the embryonic child. The second drug, Misoprostol (Gymiso) given 24-48 hours later causes uterine contractions to expel the dead or dying child from the womb. Each tablet is taken buccally placed between the teeth and the cheek.

MIFEGYMISO - ACCORDING TO... HEALTH CANADA

FACT: *Mifegymiso is a prescription drug with serious potential risks requiring physician oversight. The need for medical supervision is based on strong evidence for good health and safety outcomes. For example, it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 women who use this drug will require a follow-up surgical procedure because their pregnancy is not successfully terminated. Health Canada has put in place requirements that will help ensure that women have access to medical services in case of a serious adverse event taking place.³*

THE RESTRICTIONS ON MIFEGYMISO IN CANADA INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING⁴

- 7-week / 49-day gestational limit (since [first day of]last menstrual period);
- Physicians must receive training in order to be on a registry to prescribe;
- Physicians must dispense drug directly to the patient;
- Physicians must supervise the patient's ingestion of the first dose;
- Physicians must exclude ectopic pregnancy and determine gestational age by ultrasound.

Women will be asked to sign a consent form and take the Mifepristone tablet in front of the physician. Misoprostol will be provided but may be taken at home. A return visit 14 days later is strongly advised to ensure the abortion is complete and that there is no infection.

THERE IS ALSO THE GRISLY
POSSIBILITY THAT A
WOMAN WILL DELIVER HER
TINY BUT UNRECOGNISABLE
DEAD FOETUS OF 6-12
WEEKS DEVELOPMENT
ALONE AND AT HOME.

– Duffy A, Santamaria Dr J.
The How and Why of RU486.,
Thomas More Centre Bulletin
1990;2:(9),1-5

SOMETHING WOMEN MIGHT WISH TO KNOW

4 to 8 Weeks Gestation - Fetal Development

By 5 weeks, development of the brain, spinal cord, and heart is well underway. The heart begins beating at 5 weeks and one day and is visible by ultrasound almost immediately.⁵

By 6 weeks, the heart is pumping the embryo's own blood to his or her brain and body. All four chambers of the heart are present and more than 1 million heartbeats have occurred. The head, as well as the chest and abdominal cavities have formed and the beginnings of the arms and legs are easily seen. The 6-week embryo measures less than ¼ of an inch long from head to rump.⁵

Rapid brain development continues with the appearance of the cerebral hemispheres at 6½ weeks. The embryo reflexively turns away in response to light touch on the face at 7½ weeks.⁵

SIDE EFFECTS OF MIFEGYMISO

Use of RU486/prostaglandin may cause any of the following:

*haemorrhage requiring blood transfusion, severe pain requiring strong pain killers, incomplete abortion, rupture of the uterus, vaginal bleeding, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, muscle weakness, dizziness, flushing, chills, backache, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, palpitations, rise in temperature and fall in blood pressure.*⁶

YET SOME SAY:

*Mifegymiso is the World Health Organization's (WHO) gold standard of medical abortion...with an outstanding safety and efficacy record...*⁷

STILL OTHERS SAY:

*...and has maintained an outstanding safety record throughout the world...*⁸

GOLD STANDARD AND SAFE?

Do they think all women are stupid?

FINLAND⁹

- Chemical abortion [has] roughly four times the rate of adverse events than surgical abortion: 20.0% of women in the medical[chemical]-abortion group and 5.6% of women in the surgical-abortion group had at least one type of adverse event.
- Hemorrhage, as an adverse event, was experienced by 15.6% of medical [chemical] abortion patients compared with 2.1% for surgical patients.
- Incomplete abortions were experienced by 6.7% of medical [chemical] abortion patients while only 1.6% of surgical patients had incomplete abortions.

- The rate for surgical (re)evacuation of the uterus was 5.9% medical[chemical] versus 1.8% (surgical) for all causes (hemorrhage, infection, incomplete abortion).
- The study was conducted in Finland where there is a comprehensive network of medical registries that could be used to track abortion outcomes in that country's government-based medical system. From 2000-2006 all women (n=42,619) who had abortions up to 63 days gestational age were followed up until 42 days.
- Chemical abortion had approximately 4 times the rate of adverse events!

I felt like I was dying...it hurt so much. I had contractions coming so fast, and I was sick to my stomach and dry heaving. I couldn't stop trembling and I felt so hot.

— RU486patient, named Aimee, talking

about her experience. Darton N., *Surprising journey for abortion drug*, New York Times, 23 March 1995 p.C12



In summary, the Finnish registries revealed that first-trimester chemical abortions with mifepristone and a prostaglandin – typically misoprostol – resulted in:

1. 20 out of every 100 women with a significant adverse event;
2. about 16 out of 100 women hemorrhaging excessively;
3. 7 out of every 100 women with tissue left inside;
4. approximately 6 out of every 100 women needing surgical re-evacuation of the uterus

AUSTRALIA¹⁰

A newspaper story by Jamie Walker in The Australian summed things up with the headline "Abortion Pill 'Less Safe than Surgery.'" The journalistic audit of approximately 6,800 surgical and chemical abortions produced important data comparing first-trimester RU-486 and surgical abortions:

- 3.3% of the women who used RU-486 in the first trimester of pregnancy reported to an emergency room compared with 2.2% who used a surgical method;
- 5.7% (1 in 18 patients) of the women who used RU-486 had to be re-admitted to hospitals compared with 0.4% (1 in 250) of surgical abortion patients. With respect to second-trimester RU-486 abortions:
- A staggering 33% (16/49) required some form of surgical intervention;
- 4% had "significant haemorrhage;" one of the two patients in this category required a transfusion.

Walker also noted in The Australian, "Two of the 5,823 surgical patients suffered severe haemorrhage, involving the loss of more than a litre of blood." That approximated "a rate of one in 3000." Walker observed as well "[f]our of the 947 women who had medical abortions had the same problem, lifting the rate to one in 200." These statistics pertain to first-trimester abortions.

IN SUMMARY, THE AUSTRALIAN STUDY UNDERSCORES THE FACT ALSO SEEN IN THE FINNISH DATA—RU-486 REQUIRES A SUBSTANTIAL FOLLOW-UP AND SUPPORT SYSTEM TO MINIMIZE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH ITS USE. THE BACK-UP CAPACITY SHOULD INCLUDE ULTRASOUND, TRANSFUSION ABILITY, AND EMERGENT SURGICAL CAPABILITY TO FOLLOW-UP AN INCOMPLETE ABORTION.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA¹¹

FDA's April 2011 RU-486 Adverse Events Summary states that "[t]he estimated number of women who have used mifepristone in the US through the end of April 2011 is approximately 1.52 million women." As noted above, FDA calculated that by that date there had been 2,207 adverse event reports submitted to FDA.

HOSPITALIZATION, EXCLUDING DEATHS

There were 612 reports of hospitalization received as of April 30, 2011.

HEMORRHAGE

339 women "experienced blood loss requiring a transfusion" after taking the RU-486 abortion regimen.

INFECTIONS

There were 256 baseline infections cases defined as: [including] endometritis (involving the lining of the womb), pelvic inflammatory disease (involving the nearby reproductive organs such as the fallopian tubes or ovaries), and pelvic infections with sepsis (a serious systemic infection that has spread beyond the reproductive organs....

There were also 48 reports of *severe infections* which were described as a subset of infections including: Severe infections generally involve death or hospitalization for at least 2-3 days, intravenous antibiotics for at least 24 hours, total antibiotic usage for at least 3 days, and any other physical or clinical findings, laboratory data or surgery that suggest a severe infection.

DEATHS

- FDA states that eight of fourteen fatalities it had tracked were associated with sepsis
- 7 cases tested positive for *Clostridium sordellii*, 1 case tested positive for *Clostridium perfringens*["]. All but one fatal sepsis case reported vaginal misoprostol use; buccal misoprostol use was reported in one case

IF YOU DID NOT KNOW ANY OF THIS UNTIL YOU READ THIS PAMPHLET YOU COULD NOT HAVE GIVEN AN INFORMED CONSENT
WHAT ELSE ARE YOU NOT BEING TOLD?

We keep hearing - you can trust women to make decisions. Well, it is not about trusting women but providing all information to them and keeping them safe. Mifegymiso, almost always kills the developing child and can have severe and even fatal consequences for some - all women deserve to know that.



ABORTION PILL REVERSAL, so call today! Call us right now, so we can talk with you and offer you help. **CALL OUR 24/7 HOTLINE** at 1.877.558.0333 or visit www.abortionpillreversal.com.

FAILURES: THE NON-NEGLIGIBLE RISK OF FAILURE MAKES THE FOLLOW UP VISIT MANDATORY TO CHECK THAT THE ABORTION IS COMPLETE.

– Risks related to the method, from Product Characteristics for Mifegyne, electronic Medicines Compendium

REGRET TAKING THE ABORTION PILL - IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE!

ABORTION PILL REVERSAL

Do you regret your decision and wish you could reverse the effects of the abortion pill? We are waiting to help you! There is an effective process for reversing the abortion pill, called

RESOURCES

1. Dr. Germaine Greer described RU486 as a powerful and unpleasant succession of experiences at the Best For Women Gynaecologists and Obstetricians conference in Sydney, October 2002. Reported in *The Age*, 4 October.
2. <http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2013/09/24/3855497.htm>
3. <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activit/fs-fi/mifegymiso-fs-fi-eng.php>
4. <http://www.mifegymiso.com/restrictions>
5. <http://www.ehd.org/prenatal-summary.php>
6. Wilks J, *A Consumers Guide to the Pill, All Inc.*, Stafford, Virginia p164, Wilks J, *A Consumers Guide to the Pill, All Inc.*, Stafford, Virginia p165, *Product Characteristics for Mifegyne*, *electronic Medicines Compendium*, *Product Characteristics for Gemeprost*, *electronic Medicines Compendium*, <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortion/methods/ru486>
7. <http://www.mifegymiso.com/mifegymiso>
8. <http://www.srhweek.ca/caring-for-yourself/pregnancy/positive-test-pregnancy-options/mifegymiso>
9. <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12F08.pdf>
10. <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12F08.pdf> (pages4/5)
11. <http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12F08.pdf>

FIND OUT MORE

<http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF12F08.pdf>
<http://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF07A29.pdf>
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activit/fs-fi/mifegymiso-fs-fi-eng.php>
http://recherche-search.gc.ca/rGs/s_r?cdn=health&langs=eng&s5bm3ts21rch=x&st=s&q=mifegymiso&search=#wb-land
http://www.mshealth.com.au/uploads/MSGY6539_GyMisofullPI_FA.pdf
www.RU486facts.org
www.abortionprocedures.com
<http://www.frc.org/ru-486>
<https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortion/methods/ru486>
<http://www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2013/09/24/3855497.htm>
<http://aaplog.org/mifeprex/>
<http://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/drug-20222-325/mifepristone-oral/mifepristone---oral/details>
<http://allianceforlife.org/life-issues/ru486/>
<http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/ru486/>
<http://dianedew.com/ru486.htm>



Mifegymiso (RU486/The Abortion Pill)

A publication of Alliance for Life Ontario

26 Norfolk Street

Guelph, ON N1H 4H8

Phone: 519-824-7797

1 866 LUV BOTH (588-2684)

www.allianceforlife.org

We have relied heavily on Dr Christopher M. Gacek's research "RU-486 (Mifepristone) side effects 2000-2012" and thank him for his diligent work.