

Comparison Chart of Different Abortion Methods

	Surgical Procedure with Local Anesthesia (Awake)	Surgical Procedure with Conscious Sedation (Drowsy)	Surgical Procedure with General Anesthesia (Asleep)	Abortion Pill ("Medical Abortion" or RU-486")
How is it given?	Injection directly into cervix	Intravenous (in the vein)	Intravenous (in the vein)	1 pill orally in office, then 4 pills at home (24-48 hours later, held in the mouth for 30 minutes then swallowed)
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can eat up until surgery Shortest recovery time May drive self home Additional muscle relaxer available if you have a ride Awake and alert Few side effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feel deeply relaxed Do not lose consciousness Little to no awareness of procedure Shorter recovery time than general anesthesia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feels like a deep sleep No memory of procedure Unable to feel pain during the procedure (you may have cramping afterward) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some women may prefer to be at home and in private rather than in a clinic setting You may have the support person of your choice with you during the process There is no need for surgery (unless the abortion fails). The process may seem more "natural" Some women feel more in control of the process
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to experience cramping and discomfort Awake and aware of what's going on around you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot eat for 4 hours before surgery Increased risks with stronger medications than staying awake More expensive than staying awake May experience some discomfort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unconscious for surgery Cannot eat or drink for at least 8 hours before surgery Greater risk than staying awake or being drowsy More expensive than staying awake or being drowsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process takes up to two weeks with at least 2 visits to the clinic The timing of the abortion is unpredictable Bleeding can be very heavy. Likely to experience intense cramping and discomfort If complications occur, you must travel to a hospital Cramping can be severe and lasts longer than with a surgical abortion Higher failure rate than surgical abortions
Average recovery time	30 minutes in the office	30+ minutes in the office	60 minutes in the office	Varies among women: 1 day to 2 weeks

Common side effects	Tingling, numbness, nausea, and dizziness from medications	Some people have nausea or vomiting. Headache, dizziness, dry mouth, sweating, hiccups, coughing, drowsiness	Nausea, vomiting, headache and drowsiness are more common with being put to sleep than with conscious sedation	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach upset Headache, fever, body aches
Risks	Possible rare allergic reaction Possible complications are rare but include retained tissue, missed pregnancy, perforation, hemorrhage, and infection Fertility is not affected except in rare, serious complications	Allergic reaction Damage to or failure of heart, lungs, kidney, and/or brain, infection of vein, and death Possible complications are rare but include retained tissue, missed pregnancy, perforation, hemorrhage, and infection Fertility is not affected except in rare, serious complications.	Allergic reaction Damage to or failure of heart, lungs, kidney, and/or brain, infection of vein, and death Possible complications are rare but include retained tissue, missed pregnancy, perforation, hemorrhage, and infection Fertility is not affected except in rare, serious complications	Allergic reaction Possible complications are rare but include retained tissue, hemorrhage, infection, and death The rate of death is 1 in 100,000. That is 10 times higher than a surgical abortion performed at this stage Fertility is not affected except in rare, serious complications
When is it available?	Under 12 weeks	Under 12 weeks	Up to 21.6 weeks	Up to 9 weeks
Cost	\$400 Additional \$50 if you have an Rh negative blood type	\$450 Additional \$50 if you have an Rh negative blood type	\$500-\$1,150 Additional \$50 (1 st trimester) or \$125 (2 nd trimester) if Rh negative blood type	\$475 Additional \$50 if you have an Rh negative blood type