

Misoprostol Patient Information Sheet

*Tena koutou katoa, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni,
Ni Sa Bula Vinaka,
Greetings and Welcome to National Women's Health*

Misoprostol is a prostaglandin product recommended for use in the treatment of miscarriage where some or all of the pregnancy tissue is retained in the womb.

Medicines are generally registered in New Zealand for specific purposes. Although Misoprostol is a registered medication, it is not specifically registered for use in the treatment of miscarriage and we therefore need your written consent to use it for this purpose. You will therefore be asked to sign a consent form for this. Extensive research on the use of Misoprostol for this purpose has shown it to be safe and effective medication.

Misoprostol works by softening your cervix and making the uterus contract. This means that Misoprostol can be used in different ways and is given in different doses depending on the treatment method. Your doctor will discuss with you which option is the best treatment option for you.

Medical Management of a Miscarriage

In medical management of the miscarriage the first dose of Misoprostol is given into the vagina or buccally (through the oral mucus membranes). This may be followed several hours later by an oral dose.

Evacuation of the Uterus (D&C)

In surgical management, where an Evacuation of the Uterus (D&C) is to be performed, Misoprostol may also be given. It is usually given by mouth one hour prior to the procedure. This will decrease the risk of complications related to the evacuation procedure. Not all women who have an evacuation need to have Misoprostol.

Side Effects

The most common side effects of Misoprostol are abdominal pain (most women usually only experience a mild discomfort) and occasionally vaginal bleeding. Many women notice a temporary increase in temperature. Less commonly women may experience diarrhoea or nausea, and very rarely vomiting.

If you have any further questions please ask a member of staff involved in your care.

National Women's Health
Gynaecology Service
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