**Abortions carried out with pills bought online are ‘no riskier’ then getting them from the doctor, study finds**

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A new study claims taking that tablets at home after a consultation is just as safe as it is under medical supervision

**It is no riskier for women to carry out an**[**abortion**](http://www.standard.co.uk/topic/abortion)**with pills bought online than it is to get them from the doctor’s under supervision, a new study has found.**

Researchers looking into women who seek abortion pills over the internet have found that almost 95 per cent safely ended their pregnancy.

The findings of the study, published in the British Medical Journal, found that out of 1,000 women in Ireland who purchased abortion drugs online between 2010 and 2012, 950 indicated that their abortion was “successful.”

However, almost a tenth of the women who responded said they had to seek some form of medical advice, including blood transfusions and being prescribed antibiotics, although no deaths were reported.

These figures are broadly in line with the number of women suffering complications after a supervised medical abortion.

The women in the study received consultations and abortion pills from Netherlands-based telemedicine nonprofit [Women on Web,](https://www.womenonweb.org/) which has been providing abortion pills since 2006 to women living in countries where they cannot legally access an abortion.

Women who seek abortion pills online are still at risk of procuring unsafe medical advice and prescriptions from scam websites.

Taking abortion pills without medical approval is illegal in the UK, but women in Great Britain can legally have an abortion at a registered clinic in the presence of a doctor and nurse, after getting written consent from two doctors.

In Ireland, the abortion laws are much stricter. Women living in Northern Ireland can only get legal access to abortions if a woman's life is at risk or there is a permanent or serious risk to her mental or physical health.

Abortion is only legal in the Republic of Ireland if the mother’s life is at risk.

Fatal foetal abnormalities, rape and incest are not circumstances in which abortions can be legally performed.

Writing in the British Medical Journal, the researchers say their findings have "important implications'"for the future of abortions in countries where there are growing calls to change abortion laws.

However, anti-abortion groups have criticised the study's credibility.

Precious Life's director Bernadette Smyth told The Evening Standard that there is "no such thing as a safe abortion".

She believes that the study is "putting the lives and health of pregnant women in Ireland at risk by promoting self-use of abortion pills".

She added that women in "crisis pregnancies" need to be "fully informed" before using online abortion services.