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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/abortion.html>

Per a court order, HHS is required to restore this website to its version as of 12:00 AM on January 29, 2025. Information on this page may be modified and/or removed in the future subject to the terms of the court's order and implemented consistent with applicable law. Any information on this page promoting gender ideology is extremely inaccurate and disconnected from truth. The Trump Administration rejects gender ideology due to the harms and divisiveness it causes. This page does not reflect reality and therefore the Administration and this Department reject it.

Abortion

Also called: Induced Abortion

An induced abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy. It can be done two different ways:

- Medication abortion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007382.htm>] (also called medical abortion)
- Procedural abortion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002912.htm>]

An induced abortion is different from a spontaneous abortion. That is the loss of a pregnancy before the 20th week of pregnancy. It is more commonly known as a miscarriage [<https://medlineplus.gov/miscarriage.html>] .

If you are thinking of having an induced abortion, talk with your health care provider. Your provider can explain how the procedures are done, as well as the risks and benefits of each.

Learn More

- Abortion Care [<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/induced-abortion>] (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)
- Could an Elective Abortion Raise the Risk of Problems in a Future Pregnancy? [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/getting-pregnant/expert-answers/abortion/faq-20058551?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/healthy-lifestyle/getting-pregnant/expert-answers/abortion/faq-20058551?p=1>]
- D and C [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002914.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002914.htm>]
- Dilation and curettage (D&C) [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/dilation-and-curettage/about/pac-20384910?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Ending a Pregnancy [<https://familydoctor.org/ending-a-pregnancy/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/ponerle-fin-a-un-embarazo/?adfree=true>]
- Medical Abortion [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/medical-abortion/about/pac-20394687?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/medical-abortion/about/pac-20394687?p=1>]
- Pregnancy Choices: Raising the Baby, Adoption, and Abortion [<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/pregnancy-choices-raising-the-baby-adoption-and-abortion>] (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists)
- Questions and Answers on Mifepristone for Medical Termination of Pregnancy Through Ten Weeks Gestation [<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/questions-and-answers-mifepristone-medical-termination-pregnancy-through-ten-weeks-gestation>] (Food and Drug Administration)

What to Do When Your Pregnancy Is Unexpected [<https://familydoctor.org/what-to-do-when-your-pregnancy-is-unexpected/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)

Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/que-hacer-cuando-su-embarazo-es-inesperado/?adfree=true>]

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Design and validation of a questionnaire to measure access to and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40712120>]
- Article: English- and Spanish-speaking U.S. adults' perceptions of the most common reasons... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40682061>]
- Article: Induced second trimester abortion and its determinants in East Gojjam public... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40659701>]
- Abortion -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Abortion%2C+Induced%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Patient Handouts

- Abortion - procedure - aftercare [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000658.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000658.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Abortion - medication [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007382.htm>]

Abortion - procedure [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002912.htm>]

Ending pregnancy with medicines [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000835.htm>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English [<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/abortion.html>] on *Abortion*

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[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our quality guidelines

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

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