

# Abortion Pill Reversal

Some women change their mind about abortion after starting the medication regimen to terminate their pregnancy. Abortion pill reversal involves taking large doses of the hormone, progesterone, within 72 hours after taking the first dose of mifepristone (RU-486). It is most effective if taken within 24 hours. The abortion pill reversal procedure can only occur after the first dose of mifepristone (RU-486) and is ineffective after the second set of pills (misoprostol).

## How it works

The abortion pill reversal process involves a large influx of progesterone into the pregnant woman's system. This is done to attempt to counteract the effect of mifepristone (RU-486), which blocks progesterone from being absorbed by the uterus (womb). If the body is flooded with progesterone, the idea is that the higher levels of progesterone will out-compete the mifepristone (RU-486) for binding spots in the uterus (womb).

A progesterone regimen is usually continued for the rest of the first trimester.

## Is it safe?

Progesterone has been used in pregnancies for decades without any significant undesired effects. As with any hormone, there are some risks; however progesterone is usually well tolerated.

## How effective is this method?

Currently there are no completed evidence-based scientific studies on the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of abortion pill reversal. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recognizes a small case series, done in 2012, which reported on six women who took mifepristone (RU-486) and were then administered varying progesterone doses. Four continued their pregnancies. ACOG reported there is not sufficient scientific evidence to conclude that progesterone resulted in the continuation of those pregnancies.

## Where to get more information

More information about abortion pill reversal and how to locate a provider who will prescribe abortion pill reversal medication can be obtained by calling the Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline at **1-877-558-0333**.

