

**LIVE ACTION**

I saw  
my  
baby



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# Introduction

The abortion pill is a lethal drug that kills children and wounds mothers. Government-imposed regulations intended to protect consumers from its many potential complications are ignored by the abortion industry as a matter of course, placing mothers at increased risk.

The abortion pill ends the lives of nearly half a million<sup>1</sup> American preborn children annually, and is currently the most popular<sup>2</sup> method of abortion in the United States. Though abortion advocates routinely claim it is “safer” than many widely consumed medications, including Tylenol,<sup>3</sup> the abortion pill actually has many risks for complications. Consequently, it has been placed under a unique Food and Drug Administration (FDA) safety regulation system known as Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS). However, the abortion industry routinely flouts these regulations, with tragic consequences for mothers.

## This report will cover:

- **Statistics** related to use of the abortion pill
- The abortion pill’s **Method of Action**
- **Complication Risks** associated with use of the abortion pill
- The FDA’s **Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)** for the abortion pill
- Consequences of **The “No-Test Protocol”**
- **Misuse of Misoprostol**, the second drug in the abortion pill regimen
- The **Incestuous Funding** ties among those who finance, test, and profit from the abortion pill
- **Maternal Trauma** consequential to use of the abortion pill



## Statistics

According to data<sup>4</sup> published by the FDA, the abortion pill has ended the lives of an estimated 5.6 million preborn babies in the U.S as of June 30, 2022.<sup>5</sup> Since its approval by the FDA in September of 2000, use of the abortion pill regimen has steadily increased. It is now the most commonly utilized abortion method in the United States. Data<sup>6</sup> published by the Guttmacher Institute shows that the abortion pill (also known as medication abortion or chemical abortion) accounted for 53% of total U.S. abortions in 2020, the most recent year for which data is available. This translates into a total of 492,210 abortions committed by this method in that year alone.

<sup>1</sup> Rachel K. Jones, “Abortion incidence and service availability in the United States, 2020,” *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1363/psrh.12215>.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Bettina di Fiore, “FACT CHECK: Is the abortion pill actually ‘safer than Tylenol and Viagra?’” *Live Action News*, February 10, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/fact-check-abortion-pill-safer-tylenol-viagra/>.

<sup>4</sup> “Mifepristone U.S. Post-Marketing Adverse Events Summary through 06/30/2022,” U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.fda.gov/media/164331/download>.

<sup>5</sup> Carole Novielli, “US abortion pill use up 14% in a year with 5.6M lives lost, as adverse events on women are further obscured,” *Live Action News*, January 4, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/us-abortion-pill-lives-lost-adverse-observed/>.

<sup>7</sup> Jones, “Abortion incidence.”

## Method of action

Contrary to some individuals' misconceptions,<sup>7</sup> the abortion pill does not function in the same manner as emergency contraception or Plan B<sup>8</sup> (the so-called "morning after pill,") or other hormonal contraceptive methods. By definition, contraception is primarily intended to prevent fertilization before it occurs. On the other hand, the abortion pill is designed to end the life of a preborn child after fertilization and implantation have already occurred.

The FDA-approved<sup>9</sup> abortion pill regimen is a two-step process.<sup>10</sup> First, a woman takes mifepristone, known by the brand name Mifeprex, which blocks the action of the pregnancy hormone progesterone. This causes the lining of the uterus to break down, and deprives the preborn child of nutrients necessary to sustain life. According to the FDA-approved regimen, 24-48 hours after taking mifepristone, the woman is to take a second drug named misoprostol buccally, or in the cheeks of the mouth. This drug causes heavy bleeding, severe cramping, and contractions which expel the dead child from the mother's uterus, which the mother may see<sup>11</sup> – sometimes recognizable and intact – before disposing of him or her.

## Complication risks

Mifeprex's drug label<sup>12</sup> warns of several serious potential complications associated with use of the drug, including "serious and sometimes fatal infections or bleeding":

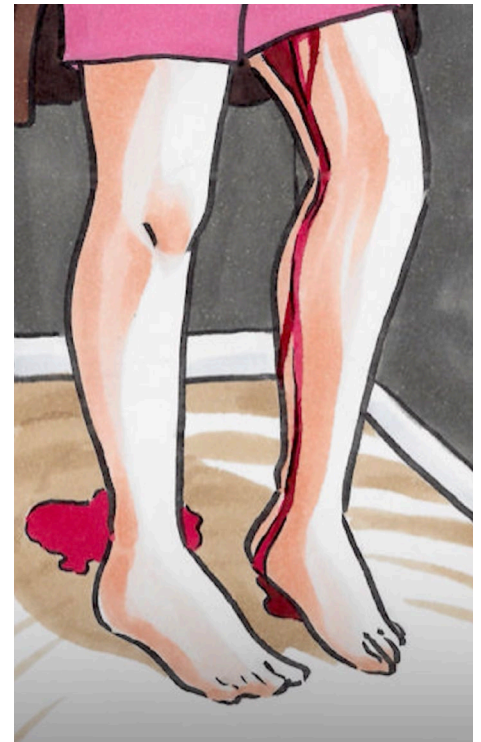
### **WARNING: SERIOUS AND SOMETIMES FATAL INFECTIONS OR BLEEDING**

**Serious and sometimes fatal infections and bleeding occur very rarely following spontaneous, surgical, and medical abortions, including following MIFEPREX use. No causal relationship between the use of MIFEPREX and misoprostol and these events has been established.**

- **Atypical Presentation of Infection.** Patients with serious bacterial infections (e.g., *Clostridium sordellii*) and sepsis can present without fever, bacteremia, or significant findings on pelvic examination following an abortion. Very rarely, deaths have been reported in patients who presented without fever, with or without abdominal pain, but with leukocytosis with a marked left shift, tachycardia, hemoconcentration, and general malaise. A high index of suspicion is needed to rule out serious infection and sepsis [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
- **Bleeding.** Prolonged heavy bleeding may be a sign of incomplete abortion or other complications and prompt medical or surgical intervention may be needed. Advise patients to seek immediate medical attention if they experience prolonged heavy vaginal bleeding [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*].

**Because of the risks of serious complications described above, MIFEPREX is available only through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) called the mifepristone REMS Program [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].**

**Before prescribing MIFEPREX, inform the patient about the risk of these serious events. Ensure that the patient knows whom to call and what to do, including going to an Emergency Room if none of the provided contacts are reachable, if they experience sustained fever, severe abdominal pain, prolonged heavy bleeding, or syncope, or if they experience abdominal pain or discomfort, or general malaise (including weakness, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) for more than 24 hours after taking misoprostol.**



<sup>7</sup> Bridget Sielicki, "Clearing misconceptions: Three differences between the abortion pill and 'Plan B,'" Live Action News, January 15, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/misconceptions-three-differences-abortion-pill-plan-b/>.

<sup>8</sup> "Plan B One-Step (1.5 mg levonorgestrel) Information," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/plan-b-one-step-15-mg-levonorgestrel-information>.

<sup>9</sup> "Questions and Answers on Mifepristone for Medical Termination of Pregnancy Through Ten Weeks Gestation," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/questions-and-answers-mifepristone-medical-termination-pregnancy-through-ten-weeks-gestation>.

<sup>10</sup> "Abortion Pills," Abortion Procedures, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.abortionprocedures.com/abortion-pill/>.

<sup>11</sup> Carole Novielli, "Women describe seeing preborn child after taking abortion pills at home," Live Action News, January 28, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/women-describe-preborn-child-abortion-pills/>.

<sup>12</sup> "Mifeprex (2023)," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2023/020687Orig1s025Lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/020687Orig1s025Lbl.pdf).

Other adverse reactions listed on the drug's label<sup>13</sup> include "nausea, weakness, fever/chills, vomiting, headache, diarrhea, and dizziness."

Reporting of non-fatal complications is no longer required by mifepristone's safety regulations. Furthermore, abortion industry insiders are advising women to lie<sup>14</sup> when they go to the ER with complications. Dr. Daniel Grossman, a principal investigator of clinical trials, unethically suggested ER doctors should falsify documents. These circumstances diminish any chance that accurate numbers on complications/deaths will be reported.

## Risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS)

Because<sup>15</sup> of the dangers and deaths associated with the use of the abortion pill, it was placed under an FDA safety system known as Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy<sup>16</sup> (REMS) in 2011. The stipulations of the mifepristone REMS program have evolved over time, with changes<sup>17</sup> made by the Obama administration's<sup>18</sup> FDA as well as that of the Biden administration, which has eliminated<sup>19</sup> the in-person dispensing requirement, allowed the drug to be distributed by mail, and, most recently, allowed for retail pharmacy distribution.<sup>20</sup>

Under the current mifepristone REMS program,<sup>21</sup> the abortion pill is only approved for use up to 10 weeks/70 days gestation. The current REMS<sup>22</sup> program also stipulates that prescribers must have the "a) Ability to assess the duration of pregnancy accurately b) Ability to diagnose ectopic pregnancies c) Ability to provide

surgical intervention in cases of incomplete abortion or severe bleeding, or to have made plans to provide such care through others, and ability to assure patient access to medical facilities equipped to provide blood transfusions and resuscitation, if necessary."

However, as forthcoming examples will show, the abortion industry regularly ignores the safety parameters established by the FDA for use of the abortion pill, increasing the risks posed to the women who take it.

## The "no-test protocol"

### Gestational Limits

During the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, for example, the abortion industry implemented the "no-test protocol,"<sup>23</sup> which eliminated all preliminary labs, testing, and blood work needed to accurately date a pregnancy. This leaves the determination of gestational age up to a woman's best guess. However, studies have shown that women routinely underestimate<sup>24</sup> the gestational ages of their preborn children; this is a fact even the pro-abortion<sup>25</sup> American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has confirmed,<sup>26</sup> stating: "It has been reported that approximately one half of women accurately recall their LMP [last menstrual period]."

<sup>15</sup> Carole Novielli, "The abortion pill: So dangerous it needs a rare safety requirement," Live Action News, June 6, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/abortion-pill-dangerous-safety-requirement/>.

<sup>16</sup> "Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/risk-evaluation-and-mitigation-strategies-rem>s.

<sup>17</sup> "Mifeprex (2020)," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2016/020687s020lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/020687s020lbl.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> Carole Novielli, "Biden's nominee for FDA Commissioner expanded access to abortion pill under Obama administration," Live Action News, November 15, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/biden-fda-commissioner-expanded-abortion-pill-obama/>.

<sup>19</sup> Carole Novielli, "BREAKING: FDA permanently loosens abortion pill safety measures to allow pills by mail," Live Action News, December 16, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/fda-permanently-loosens-abortion-pill-safety-measure/>.

<sup>20</sup> Carole Novielli, "FDA announces retail pharmacies can dispense abortion pills with a prescription," Live Action News, January 4, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/fda-retail-pharmacies-abortion-pills-prescription/>.

<sup>21</sup> "Risk Evaluation And Mitigation Strategy (Rems) Single Shared System For Mifepristone 200 Mg," U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/rem/s/Mifepristone\\_2023\\_01\\_03\\_REMS\\_Full.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/rem/s/Mifepristone_2023_01_03_REMS_Full.pdf).

<sup>22</sup> *ibid*  
<sup>23</sup> Carole Novielli, "New 'no-test' abortion pill protocol seeks to broaden 'access' with no concern for women's safety," Live Action News, April 21, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/no-test-abortion-pill-protocol-access-safety/>.

<sup>24</sup> Bettina di Fiore, "Many women seeking abortion pill underestimate gestational age, study finds," Live Action News, November 4, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/women-seeking-abortion-pill-underestimate-gestational/>.

<sup>25</sup> Carole Novielli, "Exposing ACOG: The medical organization that supports and covers for the abortion industry," Live Action News, June 24, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/exposing-acog-medical-organization-supports-abortion-industry/>.

<sup>26</sup> "Methods for Estimating the Due Date," American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2017/05/methods-for-estimating-the-due-date>.

Consequently, many women have received the abortion pill well past the 10-week limit dictated by the FDA, leading to tragic consequences. One such woman sued<sup>27</sup> Planned Parenthood, which dated<sup>28</sup> her pregnancy at six weeks gestation after a “fifteen minute, two second telehealth conference” – lacking any physical examination whatsoever. In reality, her pregnancy was much farther along, and after taking the abortion pill, she delivered a dead fetus into her toilet estimated to be between 30-36 weeks gestation.

Similarly, Linda Prine, an abortionist and the founder of a hotline designed to give guidance to women who are self-managing their abortions, recently admitted<sup>29</sup> that women are calling her hotline “completely freaked out, crying, sobbing” after having taken the abortion pill as late as 18 weeks into their pregnancies, because they were not expecting to see recognizable human fetuses and embryos.

This situation is exacerbated by the fact that the abortion industry flouts<sup>30</sup> FDA regulations by intentionally prescribing the abortion pill later in pregnancy than it is approved for use. Planned Parenthood<sup>31</sup> openly advertises that it prescribes the abortion pill up to 11 weeks/77 days gestation, as does the University of California San Francisco.<sup>32</sup> The Orlando Women’s Center’s website<sup>33</sup> states that it prescribes the abortion pill up to 24 weeks gestation.

These are not exceptional cases – numerous facilities advertise<sup>34</sup> availability of the abortion pill at varying gestational ages past the FDA-dictated limit:

**Planned Parenthood of South, East...** @... · Oct 26, 2022

Plan C, also known as the **abortion pill**, is actually five pills, taken one or two days apart, that end a pregnancy. They are safe and effective during the first **11 weeks** of pregnancy, with a very low risk of complications for most people. — Roksolana

**Desert Star FP** @DesertStarFP · Jan 24

Abortion services update!! We are open Tuesdays and Thursdays only. **Abortion consultations are scheduled same day and walk-ins welcomed. Abortion by pill to 11 weeks and surgical abortion through 14 weeks** is available. Phones ring through from 10a - 3p when clinic is open.

**Planned Parenthood** @PPFA · Dec 2, 2022

Want to have an **abortion** at home? A medication **abortion** (AKA the **abortion pill**) is a safe and effective way to end a pregnancy at home and can be used **up to 11 weeks** after the first day of your last period.

Can I use herbs to have an abortion at home?

There isn't enough scientific evidence to show that plants and herbs work to cause an abortion, or are safe to use to end a pregnancy.

If you or someone you know needs an abortion, go to [abortionfinder.org](http://abortionfinder.org) or call 1-800-230-PLAN.

**Orlando Women's Ce...** @WomensCentr... · Feb 10, 2022

Women's Center in Orlando, our family planning center is offering the one-hour **#AbortionPill** procedure – **3 to 14 Weeks**. **Patients who qualify may receive a significant discount** on the price of the procedure if they meet certain criteria. Call us now for a same-day appointment...

**Cedar River Clinics** @CedarRClinics · Jan 14

Repost from @UltraViolet

Swipe to learn more about **#MedicationAbortion!** Medication Abortion, also known as the **abortion pill**, is available for **people who are up to 11 weeks** along in their pregnancy.

**Orlando Women's Ce...** @WomensCentr... · Sep 21, 2022

The **#abortionpill** is a highly effective and safe way to terminate pregnancies throughout the first and second trimesters of pregnancy. **Recent studies show that women undergoing the #medicalabortionprocedure at 12 to 13 weeks have a success rate of 92% ... t.ly/smfw**

<sup>27</sup> “Jane Doe v. Meera Shah, M.D.,” Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.liveaction.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Kings-Co-501531\\_2021\\_JANE\\_DOE\\_v\\_MEERA\\_SHAH.pdf](https://www.liveaction.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Kings-Co-501531_2021_JANE_DOE_v_MEERA_SHAH.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> Carole Novielli, “Lawsuit against Planned Parenthood: Abortion pill caused toilet delivery of ‘fully formed’ 30-week baby,” Live Action News, October 24, 2022, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/planned-parenthood-lawsuit-abortion-pill-30-week/>.

<sup>29</sup> Bettina di Fiore, “The real reason why some women are ‘freaked out’ after taking the abortion pill,” Live Action News, February 16, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/reason-women-freaked-out-abortion-pill/>.

<sup>30</sup> Carole Novielli, “BAD ACTORS: Abortion industry openly ignores FDA’s abortion pill use limits,” Live Action News, February 28, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/bad-actors-industry-abortion-pill-fda-limits/>.

<sup>31</sup> “The Abortion Pill,” Planned Parenthood, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/the-abortion-pill>.

<sup>32</sup> “Aspiration Versus Medication Abortion,” UCSF Health, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.ucsfhealth.org/education/aspiration-versus-medication-abortion>.

<sup>33</sup> “The One Hour Abortion Pill Procedure,” Orlando Women’s Center, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.womenscenter.com/abortion\\_pill.html](https://www.womenscenter.com/abortion_pill.html).

<sup>34</sup> Novielli, “Bad Actors: Abortion Industry.”

Efficacy<sup>35</sup> of the abortion pill begins to decline<sup>36</sup> significantly as pregnancy progresses, and by leaving pregnancy dating to women’s best guesses and/or simply ignoring the gestational limits dictated by the REMS, abortionists place women at risk of failed or incomplete abortions, potentially leading<sup>37</sup> to hemorrhage, infection, and sepsis, which can be fatal.

**Outcome by Gestational Age Following Treatment with Mifepristone and Misoprostol (buccal) for U.S. and Non-U.S. Clinical Studies**

	≤49 days			50-56 days			57-63 days			64-70 days		
	N	%	Number of Evaluable Studies	N	%	Number of Evaluable Studies	N	%	Number of Evaluable Studies	N	%	Number of Evaluable Studies
<b>Complete medical abortion</b>	12,046	98.1	10	3,941	96.8	7	2,294	94.7	9	479	92.7	4
<b>Surgical intervention for ongoing pregnancy</b>	10,272	0.3	6	3,788	0.8	6	2,211	2	8	453	3.1	3

### Ectopic Pregnancy

Another way the “no-test protocol” endangers<sup>38</sup> women is by eliminating testing designed to rule out ectopic pregnancies. Although ectopic pregnancy is rare, affecting approximately 1 in 50<sup>39</sup> pregnancies, it can be fatal<sup>40</sup> if left untreated, and the abortion pill is not effective at killing and expelling these children.

After describing the case<sup>41</sup> of a woman who presented to the emergency room (ER) with an undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy after taking the abortion pill, a group of doctors recently warned that ER doctors should be prepared<sup>42</sup> to see this situation more often as more women self-manage their abortions without preliminary diagnostic testing. And in India, a woman recently died<sup>43</sup> of acute hemorrhagic shock from a ruptured ectopic pregnancy after she took the abortion pill without preliminary testing or medical care.

### Rh Factor

The “no-test protocol” also endangers some women’s prospects for future fertility, as it eliminates screening for Rh blood factor,<sup>44</sup> putting some women at risk for future miscarriages. According to the Mayo Clinic,<sup>45</sup> such screenings are important:

*During pregnancy, problems can happen if you’re Rh negative and your baby is Rh positive. Usually, your blood doesn’t mix with your baby’s blood during pregnancy. However, a small amount of your baby’s blood could come in contact with your blood when the baby is born. It can also happen if you have bleeding or trauma to your abdomen during pregnancy.*

<sup>35</sup> “Mifeprex (2023).”

<sup>36</sup> Carole Novielli, “Planned Parenthood sells abortion pill past FDA-approved limit... and it’s failing twice as often,” Live Action News, May 27, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/planned-parenthood-abortion-pill-fda-limit-failing/>.

<sup>37</sup> Ashley Redinger, “Incomplete Abortions,” StatPearls, June 27, 2022, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK559071/>.

<sup>38</sup> Carole Novielli, “BAD ACTORS: Abortion pill clients left to deal with ectopic pregnancies on their own,” Live Action News, March 1, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/bad-actors-abortion-pill-fda-ectopic/>.

<sup>39</sup> Krissi Danielsson, “Ectopic Pregnancy Statistics,” VeryWell Family, October 26, 2022, <https://www.verywellfamily.com/what-do-statistics-look-like-for-ectopic-pregnancy-2371730>.

<sup>40</sup> “Ectopic Pregnancy,” Mayo Clinic, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/ectopic-pregnancy/symptoms-causes/syc-20372088>.

<sup>41</sup> Isabel Beshar, M.D., “Discovery of an Ectopic Pregnancy after Attempted Self-Managed Abortion,” New England Journal of Medicine, January 19, 2023, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2214213>.

<sup>42</sup> Carole Novielli, “MDs alert ER docs they may see undiagnosed ectopic pregnancies after abortion pill use,” Live Action News, January 20, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/alert-er-docs-undiagnosed-ectopic-abortion-pill/>.

<sup>43</sup> Bettina di Fiore, “Woman’s death in India a reminder of ectopic pregnancy dangers with ‘no-test, self-managed’ abortion pill,” Live Action News, February 4, 2022, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/gruesome-india-case-dangers-no-test-abortion/>.

<sup>44</sup> “Rh Factor Blood Test,” Mayo Clinic, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/rh-factor/about/pac-20394960>.

<sup>45</sup> *ibid*

Maternal-fetal blood can mix during an abortion, as well. The Mayo Clinic adds:<sup>46</sup>

*If you're Rh negative and your baby is Rh positive, your body might produce proteins called Rh antibodies if your blood and the baby's blood mix. Those antibodies aren't a problem during the first pregnancy. But problems can happen if you become pregnant again.*

*If your next baby is Rh positive, the Rh antibodies can cross the placenta and damage the baby's red blood cells. This could lead to life-threatening anemia, a condition in which red blood cells are destroyed faster than the baby's body can replace them.*

An Rh immune globulin injection following each pregnancy can prevent the production of these antibodies, which can lead to miscarriage. However, with the “no-test protocol,” women are not being screened for Rh factor, and are consequently not being given this shot following their abortions – unless they already know they need it and ask for it. Women who do not know they are Rh negative who carry an Rh positive baby and do not receive this injection, however, are at risk for future miscarriages.

## Misuse of misoprostol

Misoprostol is the second drug in the two-drug abortion pill regimen approved by the FDA. Mifeprex's label<sup>47</sup> indicates that misoprostol is to be taken buccally, or dissolved in the cheeks of the mouth, 24-48 hours after mifepristone is taken. However, the abortion industry endangers women by prescribing the use of misoprostol by unapproved methods.

Following the approval of the abortion pill regimen in 2000, the abortion industry began off-label<sup>48</sup> use, including recommending vaginal insertion of misoprostol in lieu of the approved buccal method of administration.

Multiple women died after contracting a rare infection called *C. sordellii*, and it was suggested<sup>49</sup> that vaginal administration of misoprostol may have been a causal factor in these deaths.

Consequently, vaginal administration of misoprostol was discontinued by the abortion industry – until recently. Now, many abortion facilities<sup>50,51</sup> are once more advising<sup>52</sup> their clients, not only to insert misoprostol vaginally, but some even advise<sup>53</sup> their customers that they can do so immediately, rather than waiting the 24-48 hours stipulated by the FDA.

Setting aside the possible connection between vaginal use of misoprostol and potentially deadly infection, the efficacy of this method of administration immediately following mifepristone is significantly lower than the FDA-approved method. According to ACOG,<sup>54</sup> taking misoprostol according to the FDA-approved method – that is, buccally, 24-48 hours after mifepristone – is 98.1% effective at ≤ 49 days gestation and 94.7% effective at 57-63 days gestation. When misoprostol is administered vaginally between 0-0.25 hours after mifepristone is taken, however, efficacy drops to 95.5-95.7% at ≤ 49 days gestation and as low as 91.6% at 57-63 days gestation.

In other words, this method and timing of administration may not only be putting women at risk of deadly infection, but may also be increasing their risk of incomplete or failed abortion.

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<sup>46</sup> *ibid*

<sup>47</sup> “Mifeprex (2023).”

<sup>48</sup> Carole Novielli, “BAD ACTORS: As abortion industry veers from FDA abortion pill rules, are they risking client safety?” Live Action News, March 4, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/bad-actors-industry-fda-rules-risking-safety/>.

<sup>49</sup> Beverly Winikoff, “Clostridium sordellii Infection in Medical Abortion,” *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, December 1, 2006, <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/43/11/1447/451418>.

<sup>50</sup> “Aftercare Instructions: Medication Abortion,” *Comprehensive Women's Health Center*, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://cwhccolorado.com/services/medication-abortion/aftercare-medication-abortion/index.html>.

<sup>51</sup> “Everything You Need to Know About the Abortion Pill,” *Carafem*, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://carafem.org/abortion-pill/>.

<sup>52</sup> “Instructions for Using Vaginal Misoprostol in Medical Abortion,” *Early Options*, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://prochoice.org/wp-content/uploads/vaginal\\_miso.pdf](https://prochoice.org/wp-content/uploads/vaginal_miso.pdf).

<sup>53</sup> “How do I use the abortion pill?” *Planned Parenthood*, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/the-abortion-pill/how-do-i-use-abortion-pill>.

<sup>54</sup> “Medication Abortion Up to 70 Days of Gestation,” *American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-bulletin/articles/2020/10/medication-abortion-up-to-70-days-of-gestation>.



## Incestuous funding

There are clear conflicts<sup>55</sup> of interest<sup>56</sup> among those who have invested in, those who test the efficacy of, and those who profit from the abortion pill. Groups who have invested in the manufacturing of the abortion pill have also financially backed the studies and researchers responsible for establishing its alleged safety. The manufacturers themselves – Danco and GenBioPro – have also funded such studies<sup>57</sup> and researchers.<sup>58</sup>

For example, in 1996, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation invested<sup>59</sup> \$14.2 million in abortion pill manufacturer Danco, and is now investing<sup>60</sup> millions in the generic manufacturer, GenBioPro. The Buffett Foundations<sup>61</sup> have also invested in Danco.

Packard has also funded<sup>62</sup> Gynuity Health Projects, which is conducting abortion pill clinical trials<sup>63</sup> as well as multiple studies<sup>64</sup> with the goals of proving the abortion pill's alleged safety and expanding access<sup>65</sup> to the abortion pill regimen. Both the Buffett<sup>66</sup> and Packard Foundations, in other words, finance studies used to convince<sup>67</sup> consumers that the abortion pill is safe.

These investors in the manufacture of the abortion pill are likely profiting<sup>68</sup> from its sales, as the manufacturers<sup>69</sup> themselves most certainly are.<sup>70</sup>

## Maternal trauma

Next to the fact that the abortion pill kills children, the traumatic experiences of women who have taken the abortion pill are some of the most convincing arguments against the drug. Both pro-choice and pro-life sources have documented women's stories of trauma after taking the abortion pill.

As previously mentioned, abortionist Linda Prine told Vox magazine<sup>71</sup> that women are calling her abortion hotline "scared, because they've passed a tiny but recognizable fetus, and they are freaked out and they weren't expecting that. And it's frankly traumatizing,<sup>72</sup> what people are going through[.]"

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<sup>55</sup> Carole Novielli, "The abortion industry's conflicts of interest should concern politicians and media as much as in other industries," Live Action News, October 2, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/abortion-industry-financial-conflicts-interest-politicians-media/>.

<sup>56</sup> Carole Novielli, "The tangled web of money and deception surrounding the abortion pill," Live Action News, January 18, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/tangled-web-money-deception-abortion-pill/>.

<sup>57</sup> Carole Novielli, "Study author touting mail-order abortion pill safety was paid by the pill's manufacturer," Live Action News, August 26, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/study-author-mail-order-abortion-pill-paid/>.

<sup>58</sup> Carole Novielli, "Media's abortion 'experts' frequently on payroll of abortion pill manufacturers," Live Action News, September 22, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/media-abortion-experts-payroll-manufacturers/>.

<sup>59</sup> "Mission Investments At The Packard Foundation," The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.packard.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Packard\\_MIR\\_2015OCT51.pdf](https://www.packard.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Packard_MIR_2015OCT51.pdf).

<sup>60</sup> Carole Novielli, "UNCOVERED: Abortion pill investor now pouring millions into generic abortion pill company," Live Action News, February 11, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/abortion-pill-investor-millions-generic-company/>.

<sup>61</sup> Rachel Zimmerman, "Abortion-Pill Venture Keeps To Shadows Awaiting Approval," The Wall Street Journal, September 5, 2000, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB968103355754057093>.

<sup>62</sup> "Donors," Gynuity, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://gynuity.org/donors>.

<sup>63</sup> Carole Novielli, "Abortion pill clinical trial expands in likely attempt to thwart FDA safety regulations," Live Action News, April 3, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/abortion-pill-trial-expands-thwart-fda-safety/>.

<sup>64</sup> Carole Novielli, "Abortion pill investors launch abortion study to remove FDA safeguards and increase profit," Live Action News, August 11, 2019, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/study-funded-abortion-pill-investor-buffett-foundation/>.

<sup>65</sup> Carole Novielli, "Nonprofits tied to eugenics movement fund clinical trials to expand abortion pill access," Live Action News, June 22, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/expand-access-abortion-pill-tied-eugenics/>.

<sup>66</sup> "Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation," Grantmakers, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://www.grantmakers.io/profiles/v0/476032365-susan-thompson-buffett-foundation/?query=gynuity>.

<sup>67</sup> Carole Novielli, "Follow the money: The people saying abortion is 'safe' have major financial reasons to do so," Live Action News, March 18, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/follow-money-people-abortion-safe-financial-reasons/>.

<sup>68</sup> Carole Novielli, "Legal minds say some states – and the abortion pill's maker – might be in a sticky situation," Live Action News, April 18, 2023, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/states-abortion-pill-maker-sticky-situation/>.

<sup>69</sup> Carole Novielli, "Generic abortion pill company GenBioPro claims to be significant share of nationwide market," Live Action News, March 21, 2022, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/generic-abortion-pill-genbiopro-nationwide-market/>.

<sup>70</sup> Carole Novielli, "Abortion industry raking in an estimated \$300M annually from abortion pill sales," Live Action News, April 23, 2022, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/industry-sales-300m-abortion-pill/>.

<sup>71</sup> Marin Cogan, "What an abortion hotline reveals about reproductive care after Roe," Vox, February 6, 2023, <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/23580117/linda-prine-abortion-pills-medication-dobbs-roe>.

<sup>72</sup> Di Fiore, "The Real Reason."

Elizabeth G's story<sup>73</sup> is documented in the Attorney General of Indiana's response to a lawsuit filed by Whole Woman's Health Alliance (WWHA), an abortion chain. After taking the second drug in the abortion pill regimen, Elizabeth began to bleed heavily. "There was so much pain and blood I thought I might die," she said. Finally, she passed the gestational sac:

*It was transparent yellow, about the size and shape of a tennis ball. When I picked it up, I could see the baby inside. He looked like a little gummy bear. I sat and held him and cried. Then I flushed my baby down the toilet.*

She later suffered from anorexia, abusive relationships, and post-traumatic stress disorder, which a counselor traced directly to her abortion, according to the court document.

Leslie W's story is recounted in the same response to WWHA's lawsuit,<sup>74</sup> which states:

*She took the misoprostol ... and suffered severe pains and screamed for hours with no one to help her: "My experience was incredibly scary and nothing like a normal period. The pain I felt was much more similar to labor contractions than normal cramps. I remember sitting on the toilet discharging blood while also vomiting and shaking all over." Even worse: "I got in the shower to wash away the blood. Suddenly, I passed a large mass that clogged the drain. Even though it looked like a blood clot, I realized immediately that it must be the baby. Not knowing what else to do, I bent down, scooped it out of the drain with my bare hands and, sobbing, flushed it down the toilet."*

Tami M's story<sup>75</sup> is also contained in the WWHA lawsuit documents:

*After several hours, "the pain and the urge to push were so intense" that she sat on the toilet. "I pushed until I felt something come out and I heard a sound. I looked down and screamed. It was not just a blob of tissue. I had given birth to what looked like a fully-formed, intact 14-week old fetus covered in blood." Then, "I scooped my baby out of the toilet. I sat on the floor and held him and cried. I cannot remember what I did with my baby afterwards."*

Monica's story was related in a Washington Post article,<sup>76</sup> which said Monica began cramping after she took the second drug in the abortion pill regimen (misoprostol). She described being in so much pain that a friend suggested that she "should go to the hospital." Instead, Monica ran a bath. Then, according to the article:

*She felt a flood of liquid in her underwear and stepped into the bath with her clothes still on. Lying back in the tub, she said, she felt some pressure release. Then she screamed. The fetus was floating in the water. Slightly smaller than her palm, the fetus had a head, hands, and legs, she said. Defined fingers and toes.*

*She leapt from the bath and collapsed in her boyfriend's arms.*

Monica later buried the fetus in her backyard under a tree.

Live Action News has documented the stories of many women with similar experiences. Among them is Christina,<sup>77</sup> who claimed that taking the abortion pill "felt like HELL!" and "was worse than labor with my son." She added:

*Within two hours of taking the second set of pills I had the baby in the toilet. When I turned around there it was in the sack and everything. I broke open the sack and held the helpless little baby in my hand. I cried and felt like I had just murdered someone so innocent.*

She said she is having nightmares "all the time."

<sup>73</sup> "Whole Woman's Health Alliance v. Curtis T. Hill, Jr.," Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://ipbs.org/projects/assets/WWH-Brief-AG.pdf>.

<sup>74</sup> *ibid*

<sup>75</sup> *ibid*

<sup>76</sup> Caroline Kitchener, "Covert network provides pills for thousands of abortions in U.S. post Roe," Washington Post, October 18, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/10/18/illegal-abortion-pill-network/>.

<sup>77</sup> Sarah Terzo, "She took the abortion pill, then saw her 7-week-old baby," Live Action News, May 6, 2016, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/she-took-abortion-pill-then-saw-her-seven-week-old-baby/>.

<sup>78</sup> Sarah Terzo, "Woman traumatized by abortion pill: 'It is actually a baby because I've seen it,'" Live Action News, May 17, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/woman-traumatized-abortion-pill-baby-seen/>.

<sup>79</sup> "My Abortion Story - Natalia's Story," March for Life UK, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://vimeo.com/515967652?mc\\_cid=9082c8e791&mc\\_eid=65c58a500c](https://vimeo.com/515967652?mc_cid=9082c8e791&mc_eid=65c58a500c).

Live Action News<sup>78</sup> also related Natalia's story.<sup>79</sup> She delivered her aborted child into a toilet in her UK home:

*I looked down, and I saw him. It wasn't like a heavy period. It was like a baby. ... It's a child. It's not like a bit of blood. And I must have flushed the toilet. Passed my baby into the toilet – flushed it... And I remember just falling to my knees. ... And then I just lay in my bed. And I was just bleeding through the mattress. And I just lay there for about three days on my own, not wanting to speak to anyone. Just trying my hardest not to think about what was happening.*

Live Action's Can't Stay Silent<sup>80</sup> website contains post-abortion testimonies from many women, including women who have taken the abortion pill. Linn submitted her story:

*When I went into Planned Parenthood for the pill abortion, I was told that I would pass "tissue" and have some cramping. That was a lie, I passed a whole baby in a sac. I will never forget that image.*

Samantha shared:

*I made an appointment at Planned Parenthood and had an abortion ... I was 6 weeks along and qualified for the chemical abortion. After the first pill, I felt better as I was having some intense pregnancy symptoms. ... This temporary relief of symptoms was to be followed by some of the worst pain I have ever felt in my life when I took the second set of pills 24 hours later. The bleeding was so heavy and the cramps were so intense that I could hardly move from laying on my back to my side. ... Nothing could have ever prepared me for seeing my dead baby.*

Mary wrote:

*When I got to the clinic they said I was lucky because I was 6-8 weeks pregnant and I could do the pill. I had no idea what an abortion looked like... so I believed them and was relieved that I was one of the "lucky" ones. They gave me directions on how to take the pills. They said it would be like a period, I may feel cramps and possibly pass some clots. They acted like it was nothing, I believed them and went back to my boyfriend's apartment.*

*It wasn't cramps, it was contractions. I was in so much pain ... I remember waking up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom and I felt my baby leave my body. I knew, right at that moment, what it was. No one prepared me for this ... this was not some random clot, it was my baby and he was in the toilet. I sat there without knowing what to do and eventually held my breath, closed my eyes, and flushed. ... The clinic did not have m[e] come back for a follow-up, no one checked on me. If something had gone wrong, no one would have known.*

Cydney recalled:

*I remember looking into the toilet after a particularly heavy cramp passed and I could see my baby even though it was tiny and looked like a huge blood clot, I knew exactly what it was. I could see where the head and eyes had already started to form, that image is burned into my brain for the rest of my life. ... Saying that experience ruined me would be an understatement. Everything in my life changed and I didn't even know myself anymore. I had to deal with anxiety and depression and suicidal thoughts after I made this decision. ... It was and will always be the biggest regret of my life.*

Heather wrote:

*On the evening of Sept 10, 2016 I took th[e abortion] pill and by early morning Sept 11th, I was having contractions and bleeding heavily. I was scared and my friend took me to the ER, told them I thought I was having a miscarriage because I was too ashamed to admit I took a[n abortion] pill my friend sent me in the mail. I gave birth to an 11 wk, 5 day old fetus in the toilet of the ER. The baby was kicking inside the sac as it was basically drowning in cold toilet water. This [is] probably the most traumatic thing I have ever seen or been through in my life ... and this is the single greatest regret of my entire 37 years on this earth. I will never forget what I saw and I still cry about it to this day. ... I am not sure if I will ever forgive myself for this.*

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<sup>80</sup> "Can't Stay Silent," Can't Stay Silent, Accessed April 25, 2023, <https://cantstaysilent.com>.

## Conclusion

Since the abortion pill was placed under REMS in 2011, the safety regulations applied to it have been steadily eroded.<sup>81</sup> But the abortion industry, which makes hundreds of millions<sup>82</sup> in profits every year from sales of the abortion pill, is always looking for ways to increase those profits even further by lowering overhead.<sup>83</sup> Consequently, the industry has chosen to flout even the few remaining safety regulations in favor of offloading the work of pregnancy dating, ectopic detection, and even distribution of the pill, onto other parties. The mothers who are buying and ingesting the abortion pill, in particular, are now doing most of the “work” that is supposed to be done by those prescribing and profiting from the drug.

The more women are expected to self-screen for contraindications, and the less involvement there is from medical professionals in the prescribing and dispensing process, the more often women will be irreparably harmed by use of the abortion pill under unapproved circumstances. Doctors are already reporting<sup>84</sup> an increase in the number of women presenting to emergency rooms with abortion pill related complications. Dr. Christina Francis, for example, stated:<sup>85</sup>

*I was sitting and talking with a couple of the emergency room physicians, and they were telling me how frustrated they were because weekly, women were coming into our emergency room with complications related to chemical abortions. What I've seen over the last few years is the frequency of complications related to chemical abortion drugs is increasing significantly.*

Under current FDA regulations,<sup>86</sup> Danco and GenBioPro, the manufacturers of the abortion pill and its generic equivalent, are responsible for certifying and de-certifying prescribers of the drug. In other words, companies that stand to profit from sales of the drug are responsible for making sure that prescribers abide by the REMS. There is no incentive for these companies to enforce REMS regulations by de-certifying prescribers who defy them, as doing so would cut into manufacturers' bottom lines.

The abortion pill is the only FDA-approved prescription drug whose sole purpose has always been to kill. It is not medicine, because pregnancy is not a disease. It never should have received FDA approval, and should not enjoy it now. At a minimum, the companies who profit from its sales should not be in charge of enforcing its safety regulations.

As long as the abortion industry is allowed to distribute this lethal drug, essentially without oversight, hundreds of thousands of American preborn children will continue to die annually in the most undignified manner – their bodies treated as sewage to be flushed down the toilet – and mothers will continue to experience life-altering<sup>87</sup> trauma.



<sup>81</sup> Novielli, “The abortion pill.”

<sup>82</sup> Novielli, “Abortion industry.”

<sup>83</sup> Carole Novielli, “The abortion industry’s profits on the abortion pill skyrocket while they beg for more taxpayer funding,” Live Action News, April 17, 2022, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/industry-profits-abortion-pill-skyrocket-taxpayer-funding/>.

<sup>84</sup> Bettina di Fiore, “New study shows rate of abortion pill-related ER visits are up 500% since 2002,” Live Action News, November 21, 2021, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/study-rate-abortion-pill-er-visits-500/>.

<sup>85</sup> Dr. Christina Francis, March 15, 2023, 9:39 AM, <https://twitter.com/DrFrancis4Life/status/1635999172607262721?s=20>.

<sup>86</sup> “Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy.”

<sup>87</sup> “Can’t Stay Silent,” Live Action, Accessed April 25, 2023, [https://www.cantstaysilent.com/assets/pdf/09LA2022\\_CSS\\_Report-Digital.pdf](https://www.cantstaysilent.com/assets/pdf/09LA2022_CSS_Report-Digital.pdf).

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