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MISOPROSTOL-ONLY RECOMMENDED REGIMENS 2017

<13 weeks' gestation	13–26 weeks' gestation	>26 weeks' gestation[8]	Postpartum use
Pregnancy termination[a,b,1] 800µg sl every 3 hours *or* pv*/bucc every 3–12 hours (2–3 doses)	**Pregnancy termination**[1,5,6] 13–24 weeks: 400µg pv*/sl/bucc every 3 hours[a,e] 25–26 weeks: 200µg pv*/sl/bucc every 4 hours[f]	**Pregnancy termination**[1,5,9] 27–28 weeks: 200µg pv*/sl/bucc every 4 hours[f,g] >28 weeks: 100µg pv*/sl/bucc every 6 hours	**Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) prophylaxis**[i,2,10] 600µg po (x1) *or* **PPH secondary prevention**[i,11] (approx. ≥350ml blood loss) 800µg sl (x1)
Missed abortion[c,2] 800µg pv* every 3 hours (x2) *or* 600µg sl every 3 hours (x2)	**Fetal death**[f,g,1,5,6] 200µg pv*/sl/bucc every 4–6 hours	**Fetal death**[2,9] 27–28 weeks: 100µg pv*/sl/bucc every 4 hours[f] >28 weeks: 25µg pv* every 6 hours *or* 25µg po every 2 hours[h]	**PPH treatment**[k,2,10] 800µg sl (x1)
Incomplete abortion[a,2,3,4] 600µg po (x1) *or* 400µg sl (x1) *or* 400–800µg pv* (x1)	**Inevitable abortion**[g,2,3,5,6,7] 200µg pv*/sl/bucc every 6 hours	**Induction of labor**[h,2,9] 25µg pv* every 6 hours *or* 25µg po every 2 hours	
Cervical preparation for surgical abortion[d] 400µg sl 1 hour before procedure *or* pv* 3 hours before procedure	**Cervical preparation for surgical abortion**[a] 13–19 weeks: 400µg pv 3–4 hours before procedure >19 weeks: needs to be combined with other modalities		

References

a WHO Clinical practice handbook for safe abortion, 2014
b von Hertzen et al. Lancet, 2007; Sheldon et al. 2016 FIAPAC abstract
c Gemzell-Danielsson et al. IJGO, 2007
d Sääv et al. Human Reproduction, 2015; Kapp et al. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2010
e Dabash et al. IJGO, 2015
f Perritt et al. Contraception, 2013
g Mark et al. IJGO, 2015
h WHO recommendations for induction of labour, 2011
i FIGO Guidelines: Prevention of PPH with misoprostol, 2012
j Raghavan et al. BJOG, 2015
k FIGO Guidelines: Treatment of PPH with misoprostol, 2012

Notes

1 If mifepristone is available (preferable), follow the regimen prescribed for mifepristone + misoprostol[a]
2 Included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines
3 For incomplete/inevitable abortion women should be treated based on their uterine size rather than last menstrual period (LMP) dating
4 Leave to take effect over 1–2 weeks unless excessive bleeding or infection
5 An additional dose can be offered if the placenta has not been expelled 30 minutes after fetal expulsion
6 Several studies limited dosing to 5 times; most women have complete expulsion before use of 5 doses, but other studies continued beyond 5 and achieved a higher total success rate with no safety issues
7 Including ruptured membranes where delivery indicated
8 Follow local protocol if previous cesarean or transmural uterine scar
9 If only 200µg tablets are available, smaller doses can be made by dissolving in water (see www.misoprostol.org)
10 Where oxytocin is not available or storage conditions are inadequate
11 Option for community based programs

Route of Administration

pv – vaginal administration
sl – sublingual (under the tongue)
po – oral
bucc – buccal (in the cheek)

* Avoid pv (vaginal route) if bleeding and/or signs of infection

Rectal route is not included as a recommended route because the pharmacokinetic profile is not associated with the best efficacy