

Misoprostol Dosages for Reproductive Health

INDICATION	DOSAGE	NOTES
Induced abortion ¹ (1st Trimester)	800mcg vaginally or sublingually 3-hrly (max x3 within 12 hrs) ^a	Ideally used 48h after mifepristone 200mg
Missed abortion (1st Trimester)	800mcg vaginally 3-hrly (max x2) or 600mcg sublingually 3-hourly (max x2) ^b	Give 2 doses and leave to work for 1-2 weeks (unless heavy bleeding or infection)
Incomplete abortion ^{2,3} (1st Trimester)	600mcg orally single dose ^a or 400mcg sublingually single dose ^a	Leave to work for 2 weeks (unless heavy bleeding or infection)
Cervical ripening pre-instrumentation (1st Trimester)	400mcg vaginally 3-hrs or sublingually 2-3 hrs before procedure ^a	Use for insertion of intrauterine device, surgical termination of pregnancy, dilatation and curettage, hysteroscopy
Induced abortion ^{1,4} /Interruption of pregnancy (2nd Trimester)	400mcg vaginally or sublingually 3-hrly (max x5) ^a	Most effective when used 48h after mifepristone 200mg.
Intrauterine foetal death ⁴ (2nd Trimester)	13-17 wks: 200mcg vaginally 6-hrly (max x4) ^c 18-26 wks: 100mcg vaginally 6-hrly (max x4) ^c	Reduce doses in women with previous caesarean section.
Induction of labour ^{2,5} (3rd Trimester)	25mcg vaginally 6-hrly or 25 mcg orally 2-hrly ^d	Do not use if previous caesarean section.
PPH prophylaxis ² (Post-Partum)	600mcg orally single dose ^e	Not as effective as oxytocin. Exclude second twin before administration.
PPH treatment	800mcg sublingually single dose ^f	

PPH = postpartum haemorrhage

Notes

- 1 Only use where legal and with mifepristone, where available
- 2 Included in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines
- 3 Leave to work for 1-2 weeks unless excessive bleeding or infection
- 4 Halve dose if previous caesarean section or uterine scar
- 5 Make sure you use the correct dosage - overdose can lead to complications. Do not use if previous caesarean section

References

- a) WHO/RHR. Safe abortion: technical and policy guidance for health systems (2nd edition), 2012
- b) Gemzell-Danielsson et al. IJGO, 2007
- c) Gómez Ponce de León et al. IJGO, 2007
- d) WHO recommendations for induction of labour, 2011
- e) FIGO Guidelines: Prevention of PPH with misoprostol, 2012
- f) FIGO Guidelines: Treatment of PPH with misoprostol, 2012