

Misoprostol Dosages for Reproductive Health

Indication	Dosage	Notes
Induced abortion ¹ (1 st Trimester)	800mcg vaginally or sublingually 3-hrly (max x3 within 12hrs) ^a	Ideally used 48 hours after mifepristone 200mg.
Missed abortion (1 st Trimester)	800mcg vaginally 3-hrly (max x2) or 600mcg sublingually 3-hrly (max x2) ^b	Give 2 doses and leave to work for 1-2 weeks (unless heavy bleeding or infection)
Incomplete abortion ^{2,3} (1 st 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 (1 st 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 (2 nd Trimester)	400mcg vaginally or sublingually 3-hrly (max x5) ^a	Most effective when used 48 hrs after mifepristone 200mg.
Intrauterine foetal death ⁴ (2 nd 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
Intrauterine foetal death ⁵ (3 rd Trimester)	25mcg vaginally 6-hrly or 25mcg orally 2-hrly ^d	Reduce doses in women with previous caesarean section
Induction of labour ^{2,5} (3 rd Trimester)	25mcg vaginally 6-hrly or 25mcg 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