

**Table 2. Results of acceptability studies among patients using medical methods for first-trimester abortion**

Author and year	Patients	Preabortion attitudes	Postabortion attitudes	Would use again
Rosén, 1979	30, prostaglandin suppository	More favorable to medical than surgical procedure	Better, easier and more harmless than expected; more pain and bleeding than surgical patients	Not reported
Rosén, 1984	18, prostaglandin suppository in hospital; 17, prostaglandin suppository at home	Preferred to vacuum aspiration by 15% of hospital sample and 65% of home sample; medical abortion more natural; some felt safer in hospital; home more comfortable and private; partner support possible at home	Generally met positive expectations; pain and bleeding led some to prefer surgical procedure	64% yes
Hill, 1989	100, mifepristone and prostaglandin suppository	64% of those offered method agreed to try it	>50% needed pain relief after prostaglandin	88% yes; 3% unsure; 9% no (3% failure, 6% pain)
Tang, 1991	23, mifepristone plus prostaglandin suppository	<i>Acceptors:</i> less trauma (38%); more natural (22%); felt MD preferred (13%); feared pain from surgery (11%).	<i>Day 8:</i> relieved (30%); natural (21%); safe (14%); convenient (9%). Doubt abortion complete (9%); visits inconvenient (4%); sad, saw products of conception (4%). <i>Day 43:</i> Bled too long (11%). Overall, 96% would recommend to friends	91% yes; 9% no
Urquhart, 1991	54, mifepristone plus prostaglandin suppository	Not reported	Liked awareness of process, greater control, avoidance of anesthesia; method more discreet; more negative attitudes among younger or nulliparous women, those who needed more pain relief or saw products of conception; 10 of 13 who had previous abortion experience preferred medical abortion	75% yes
Legarth, 1991	25, mifepristone	Not reported	Rated acceptable by patients classified as "uncomplicated" cases; 20% of such cases reported mild side effects; all 4 patients with previous abortion experience preferred medical method	Not reported
Holmgren, 1992	45, mifepristone plus prostaglandin injection	Not reported	<i>Week 2:</i> Positive assessment (87%); expressed relief (40%); bleeding heavier than menses (65%); "much" pain (44%)	81% yes
Bachelot, 1992	251, mifepristone plus prostaglandin injection	<i>Acceptors:</i> less trauma (67%); less dangerous (29%); less risk to future fertility (27%); liked newness, efficacy, lack of invasiveness, possibility of verifying expulsion, and naturalness of process	Large majority satisfied; 63% wanted to see what had been expelled; 12% somewhat dissatisfied; many needed rest after procedure; some found method not as quick and easy as they had expected	Not reported
Grimes, 1992	16, mifepristone or placebo	Believed in efficacy; preferred medical to surgical abortion	Liked privacy and noninvasiveness; some in both groups had pain and nausea; 3 with previous abortion experience preferred medical method	Generally yes
Thong, 1992	94, mifepristone with prostaglandin suppository; 86, mifepristone with oral prostaglandin	Majority came in requesting medical method	Majority preferred treatment in sitting room; 60% of the oral prostaglandin group needed no pain relief (more pain relief needed by suppository group); 95% would recommend method to friends; 11 of 41 women with prior surgical abortion satisfied	Not reported
Tang, 1993	99, mifepristone plus prostaglandin suppository	Fear of surgery (81%); convenient for work (41%); less injury to body (21%); fear of general anesthesia (11%)	<i>Day 8:</i> Relieved, felt good (28%); convenient and safe (20%); avoidance of surgery (12%); painful (11%). <i>Day 43:</i> too time-consuming (11%); bleeding too long (10%). 70% of women with prior abortion found medical method better	85% yes; 11% no; 4% unsure
Henshaw, 1993	172, mifepristone plus prostaglandin suppository (73 chose; 99 assigned)	<i>Choosers:</i> fear of surgery (59%); surgery too fast (21%); medical method "more natural" (21%); want to be conscious (8%)	Women who chose method more positive than those assigned to it; both found medical method more painful than surgery	95% who chose and 74% who were assigned, yes