

TABLE 3. Percentage of pharmacy vendors who provided misoprostol-related responses to simulated clients' requests for an abortifacient, either spontaneously or after clients asked specifically for the drug

Response	% (N=434)
Dosage	
Effective (≥ 3 pills/day)	14.9
Not effective (1–2 pills/day)	5.5
No information provided	79.5
Length of treatment	
1–3 days	4.4
4–28 days	9.5
“Until you finish the bottle”	6.0
“Until the period comes”	0.2
No information provided	79.9
A safe and effective regimen†	
Yes	3.0
No	13.2
No information provided	83.8
Route of administration	
Only oral	38.6
Only vaginal	3.0
Oral and vaginal	8.8
Buccal	0.2
No information provided	49.4
Side effects‡	
Diarrhea	2.3
Cramps	24.7
Nausea	10.4
Vomiting	6.9
Bleeding	35.1
No information provided	55.2
Complications‡	
Hemorrhage	39.3
Fetal malformations	8.1
“The implantation would be stronger”	3.0
Other§	3.9
No information provided	55.2
Where to go in case of complications‡	
Emergency room	35.8
Clinic	12.9
Clinic or doctor with contact information	3.0
No information provided	56.1
Available at the pharmacy	
Yes	63.4
No	20.7
No information provided	15.9
Sold by the pill at the pharmacy	
Yes	8.7
No	44.5
No information provided	46.8
Prescription required	
Yes	34.6
No	55.4
No information provided	10.9
Cost††	
Bottle	140.00 (29.10)
Individual pill	6.20 (2.30)

†A safe and effective regimen is at least 600 mcg per day over a 1–3 day period. ‡The total in the percentages do not sum to 100% because some vendors mentioned more than one side effect, complication or place to go in the case of complications. §Other complications mentioned were infection; uterine problems, such as perforation; need for surgery; infertility and possible death. ††Mean (and standard deviation) shown in US\$. Original information was collected in Mexican pesos. Exchange rate was 10.5 pesos per US\$1.00 as of March 28, 2008. Note: Unless otherwise noted, figures are percentages.