

In the Bas St-Laurent region, medical abortion using Mifegymiso is available at the Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski family planning clinics. If you are less than 9 weeks' pregnant based on your ultrasound, and your condition meets the criteria, you can choose between voluntary surgical abortion or medical abortion (i.e. using medication).

The choice of method for terminating your pregnancy is entirely up to you. However, in certain situations (in addition to medical contraindications), we may not be able to offer you a medical abortion (upcoming travel, high level of anxiety, inability to follow the procedure, staff availability, etc.).

Surgical vs. medical abortion

Leaflet produced by the family planning clinic /ITSS/IVG
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Source: Clinique Morgentaler

https://www.montrealmorgentaler.ca/medical_abortion.php

Centre intégré
de santé
et de services sociaux
du Bas-Saint-Laurent

Québec 

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Voluntary Surgical Abortion Using the DAC Method (dilatation-aspiration-curettage)

Medical Abortion (Mifegymiso and Misoprostol)

Can be done at how many weeks?	From 7 to 14 weeks of pregnancy.	Up to 9 weeks of pregnancy. (63 days' gestation or fewer)
Where?	At the Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski hospitals.	Within 60 minutes of an emergency department.
How many visits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory visit: ½ day (TS, nurse and doctor) • Day of intervention (approximately 2 hours total) • Medical follow-up 3-6 weeks after voluntary termination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory visit: ½ day (TS, nurse and doctor) • Day of procedure (approximately 1 hour) • Follow-up and blood test/ultrasound in 7-14 days (may require a 2nd procedure day to administer medication a second time and another follow-up 7-14 days later) • Medical follow-up within 3-4 weeks of voluntary termination (as needed)
Dating ultrasound	Often recommended, but depending on the situation may not be required.	Required.
How long does it take?	Normally between 5-8 minutes.	A few hours to a few days after taking the 2nd medication (Misoprostol). Usually, the heaviest bleeding occurs within 2 to 4 hours of taking Misoprostol.
Success rate	More than 99%	95%-99%
Do I need to be accompanied?	Yes, for the return home, because you cannot drive.	Strongly recommended that someone be home with you.
Pain/painkillers	Mild to moderate, normally well-tolerated because under conscious sedation. If pain is more severe, other painkillers can be given, to better control the pain.	Moderate to severe; may last a few hours. Painkiller taken by mouth, but pain is more difficult to control.
Common side effects of medication	Drowsiness, possibly mild nausea, dizziness.	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, abdominal pain in the form of cramps/contractions, headaches, fatigue, hot flushes, prolonged vaginal bleeding.
Bleeding	None or light to moderate bleeding for up to 3 weeks after voluntary termination.	Moderate to severe, then decreasing over 3 weeks, sometimes for longer in the form of spotting.
Time off from work/school	½ day of preparation and the day of the procedure.	½ day of preparation, and after the medication is taken, sometimes 2-3 days.
Advantages	Fast, higher success rate, less bleeding, better pain management, medical staff on site.	Presence of a loved one during the procedure if desired, private, less invasive.
Disadvantages	No significant other available during the procedure, less autonomy: a date is (imposed) and must be accompanied for the return home.	Longer process, slightly lower success rate, more difficult pain management, more bleeding, no medical staff present.