

PREPARING FOR YOUR PROCEDURE WITH **MISOPROSTOL**

As part of the preparation for your gynaecology procedure, you have been prescribed misoprostol.

What is misoprostol and what is it for?

Misoprostol (Cytotec®) is a medicine used to soften the cervix and make it easier for your procedure to be performed.

Are there any concerns about taking misoprostol?

Misoprostol should **NOT** be taken if you are or you think you might be pregnant.

What are the side effects?

Some common side effects include:

- abdominal cramping,
- vaginal bleeding,
- diarrhoea
- nausea and vomiting.

Rare side effects include shivering, hot flushes or chills.

Please tell the nurse if you have any of these symptoms.

You can take paracetamol for pain with a sip of water if required. Please tell the admission nurse if you have taken any pain medicines.

How do I use misoprostol?

Misoprostol tablets can be used either in the vagina, or under the tongue (sublingual).

You and your doctor will discuss the best option for you.

Using misoprostol in the vagina

Misoprostol tablets should be placed deep into the vagina two hours before your planned admission time.

1. Go to the toilet and empty your bladder.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Remove misoprostol tablets from the foil packaging.
4. Either in a squatting position, or lying on your back or side, use your finger to push one misoprostol tablet deep into the vagina
5. Repeat step 4 for the second tablet.
6. Lie down for about 30 minutes after you insert the misoprostol tablets to allow the tablets to dissolve.
If you notice the tablets falling out, you may push them back in again or call us for instructions on what to do.
7. Wash your hands.

Using misoprostol under the tongue

Misoprostol tablets should be placed under your tongue two hours before your planned admission.

1. Remove misoprostol tablets from the foil packaging.
2. Put 2 tablets under your tongue.
3. Allow the tablets to dissolve.
The tablets may make your mouth dry or taste chalky as they dissolve.
4. After 30 minutes, if any of the tablets are left in your mouth, swallow with a sip of water.

More information

Preadmission Triage Nurse

8345 3379 (Monday to Thursday 8:00am - 4.30pm)

Day surgery on 8345 3333 or 8345 3300 (Monday to Friday 4.00pm – 6.00pm).