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## WHAT IS ABORTION PILL RESCUE

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### EPISODE NOTES

#### How does the Abortion Pill work?

1. A medical/chemical abortion requires the woman to take two drugs: first, mifepristone (most commonly), then misoprostol. Mifepristone is a drug approved for use until ten weeks in pregnancy for the purpose of aborting a known pregnancy.
2. So that first medication is taken at the abortion clinic and she is given the second medication to be taken at home 24-48 hours later.
3. The mifepristone begins to abort a pregnancy by blocking progesterone, the hormone required for a viable, successful pregnancy.
4. As an imposter, it plugs itself into those receptors where the progesterone is supposed to be.
5. It is followed up 24-48 hours later by the second medication given in chemical abortion is called misoprostol/ Cytotec. Its purpose is to cause the uterus to contract and expel the baby & pregnancy from the uterus.

#### How does Abortion Pill Rescue work to reverse this process?

1. Mifepristone blocks progesterone's actions by binding to progesterone receptors in the uterus and the placenta.
2. Chemical abortion is not attacking the baby directly, it works to destabilize the pregnancy over the course of few days.
3. Because of that, there is often time to get replacement bio-identical progesterone to replace what her body needs to support the pregnancy. In her blood, the natural progesterone her body makes is not distinguishable from the bio-identical progesterone.
4. Progesterone is needed for several reasons:  
*Prepares the endometrium for implantation of the embryo*  
*It prepares the placenta*  
*Inhibits myometrial contractions*

*Keeps the cervix closed*

5. So what we are trying to do by giving extra progesterone, is to outnumber and outcompete the mifepristone in order to reverse the effects of mifepristone.
6. Sometimes after the client has taken the first medication and waits to complete the abortion with the second medication 24-48 hours later, she begins to doubt this permanent decision of aborting her baby. And just as we all can change our minds at times even after we were sure of decision, she should be permitted to have doubts and re-evaluate this choice.

When a client calls the hotline requesting reversal, we will attempt to locate a Network provider in her area.

The provider offers her an ultrasound to confirm the viability, placement and dating of the pregnancy; prescribes or dispenses progesterone to her (given as a pill to be taken orally or vaginally or as an intramuscular injection), and has a follow-up exam visit within 72 hours of the initial prescription.

What are the results of the Abortion Pill Rescue Network?

1. Prior to Heartbeat International acquiring APR there were approximately 50 mission critical calls per month. Mission critical means that the caller is requesting reversal or reversal information. We are now getting well over 100 contacts (calls, live chat, texts) from women requesting reversal with a total of 681 contacts between April and Sept of women wanting reversal information.
2. More than 500 babies have been saved and are alive today because of the network. Their moms took that first medication and had second thoughts about what they were doing. They decided to try to rescue their babies and were successful.  
We hear from each of them how thankful they are that someone was there to take that call and be a source of hope for them when they thought there might not be that second choice.

Tell me more about the Abortion Pill Rescue Network

1. What I love best about Abortion Pill Rescue Network is that it empowers each woman to make the best choice for her.  
There is compassionate support available to her when she needs it the most that allows her to find hope again after a decision she regrets. So many have told us, "I'm glad you were there to take my call."
2. We believe that no woman should ever feel forced to complete her abortion.  
It is her right to withdraw her consent for a chemical abortion if she desires to continue her pregnancy.
3. Women deserve to know the truth and I think the 500 women who now can hold their babies in their arms would agree that an informed decision is the best decision.

How can Pregnancy Help Organizations use Abortion Pill Rescue?

1. **Getting the word out** - PHOs can offer information about Abortion Pill Rescues' availability and effectiveness to their clients and communities. If a client has taken that first abortion pill, it's important for her to know she can still attempt to continue the pregnancy if she chooses to do so. No woman should be kept in the dark about her option to rescue her baby. As PHO continue to spread the word about APR, more women will know help is available to them. Centers can provide information about it on their websites and in their referral literature.

It's important that every woman knows about abortion pill reversal so she can have hope if she changes her mind.

2. **If inclined they can provide the protocol** -PHOs can provide the reversal protocol at their centers if they have a physician to oversee the program, can offer limited obstetric ultrasound, and can prescribe or dispense the progesterone.

If you are in the network of providing centers, when a client from your area calls to the hotline, the consultant will connect her to your center to begin the process.

Pregnancy centers are just an ideal fit for reversal because you help the most vulnerable to abortion and can be available to her if she has a change of heart. And you offer all of the other support she needs as she continues her pregnancy and learns to parent her baby.

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## PODCAST RESOURCES

- [AbortionPillRescue.com](http://AbortionPillRescue.com)
- [Pregnancy Help Organizations: Join the Abortion Pill Rescue Network](#)
- [Medical Professionals: Join our Medical Network](#)