In developing countries with restricted abortion laws, poor women have a very high rate of unsafe abortions.
Misoprostol became available in the 1980s.

The label explained that it could not be used during pregnancy, as it could cause abortion.

This information was used by pharmacy’s clerk to attend the demand of women requesting a remedy for delayed menses.

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- In a short time women learnt to use misoprostol more effectively and safely.

Physicians throughout Latin America noticed a reduction in severe post-abortion complications.

During the last decade several studies have confirmed that:

1) Abortions induced with misoprostol are safer than those induced with other unsafe procedures.

Incidence of infection of induced abortions according to method of induction Goiânia, Brasil. 1994.

Source: Viggianno et al, 1996.
During the last decade several studies have confirmed that:

1) Abortions induced with misoprostol are safer than those induced with other unsafe procedures.

2) There is a temporary association between increase in the sales of Misoprostol and reduction in the complications of unsafe abortion.
The knowledge on the safe use of misoprostol by the women themselves was applied in a public health program in Uruguay, where abortion is the first cause of maternal mortality.

Induced abortion is a crime in Uruguay. But as a medical and social process it has a period “before” and “after”.

Visit “before” abortion

1- Counseling on alternatives:

Continuation of pregnancy antenatal care and keep the baby

Give the baby for adoption

Visit “before” abortion

1- Counseling on alternatives:

Continuation of pregnancy antenatal care and keep the baby
Visit “before” abortion

1- Counseling on alternatives:
- Continuation of pregnancy ante-natal care and keep the baby
- Give the baby for adoption
- Safe abortion within the law

A still clandestine but low risk abortion

Women’s empowered to take less risky decisions

Visit “before” abortion

2- Information based on evidences
- On methods used to induce abortion and their risk
Number of “before” abortion visits along time

- 03-05/2004
- 06-08/2004
- 09-11/2004
- 12/04-02/2005
- 03-05/2005

Three months periods

465 out of 675 women (69%) were followed or returned for the “after” visit.

Outcome of the pregnancies

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- 23 (4.9 %) abnormal pregnancy
- 16 (3.4 %) decided to go to term

Of the 412 women who decided to abort 100% used Misoprostol
COMPLICATIONS

- Bleeding greater than 500 ml requiring uterotonics and surgical evacuation:
  2 women (0.4%).

- Endometritis requiring antibiotics:
  1 woman (0.2%).

Conclusion

Misoprostol is a life saving drug.