

Emergency Contraceptive Pill and the Abortion Pill: What's the Difference?

	Emergency Contraceptive Pill (ECP) (Morning After Pill)	Abortion Pill
What Does It Do?	<i>Prevents</i> a pregnancy after unprotected sex	<i>Ends</i> a pregnancy
Names Of Pills	Levonorgestrel (Plan B® One-Step and others) OR ulipristal acetate (ella®)	Mifepristone (Mifeprex®) AND Misoprostol (Cytotec®)
What's In The Pills? How Do They Work?	Most brands of ECP contain progestin, one of the hormones found in daily birth control pills. ella® contains a hormone that mimics and blocks progestin. ECP works by delaying ovulation.	<i>Mifepristone</i> stops a pregnancy from growing. <i>Misoprostol</i> causes cramping so the pregnancy comes out of the uterus.
When Do You Take It?	The sooner you take ECP, the better it works. (ella® works just as well 5 days after sex as it does the first day.) ECP works up to 5 days after unprotected sex. Some packs contain 1 pill, and some packs contain 2 pills. You can take the 2 pills together.	It works in early pregnancy, up to 11 weeks after your last period. You take mifepristone first, then misoprostol.
What Happens to Your Body?	Most people feel fine. You may have nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, stomach cramps, or breast pain for a short time after taking the pills. Your next period may come a few days early or a few days late.	After taking the first pill, most people feel fine. After using the next pills, you will have heavy bleeding, often with clots. This lasts for a couple of hours. Afterwards, lighter bleeding may last 1-3 weeks. Pain varies from mild to very strong cramps off and on. Pain pills help.
How Well Does It Work?	ECP lowers your chance of getting pregnant by 58 to 94 percent.	The abortion pills work about 98-99% of the time. If they don't work, you may try the pills again or have an abortion procedure.
How Much Does It Cost?	ECP costs about \$35 - \$60 for one pack.	The exact cost depends on where you go.
Insurance Coverage	You can use Medicaid coverage or private insurance coverage with a prescription. You can call your insurance company to see which brands of ECP they cover.	Many insurance plans now cover abortion pills.
How Do You Find It?	Get it at pharmacies, health centers, or health offices: Call ahead to see if they have it. You can get progestin EC without a prescription. You need a prescription for ella®. Ask your clinician or visit www.bedsider.org/clinics/ec	Ask your clinician, call (800) 772-9100, or go to www.prochoice.org/pregnant/find/