

Buccal Versus Sublingual Misoprostol Alone for Early Pregnancy Termination in Two Latin American Countries: A Randomized Trial

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Medical Abortion in Latin America

- Mifepristone unavailable throughout the region, misoprostol-alone often used instead
- Regimens vary, buccal and sublingual administration are common
- Little information about the efficacy of differing regimens
- Need for direct comparison of buccal vs. sublingual

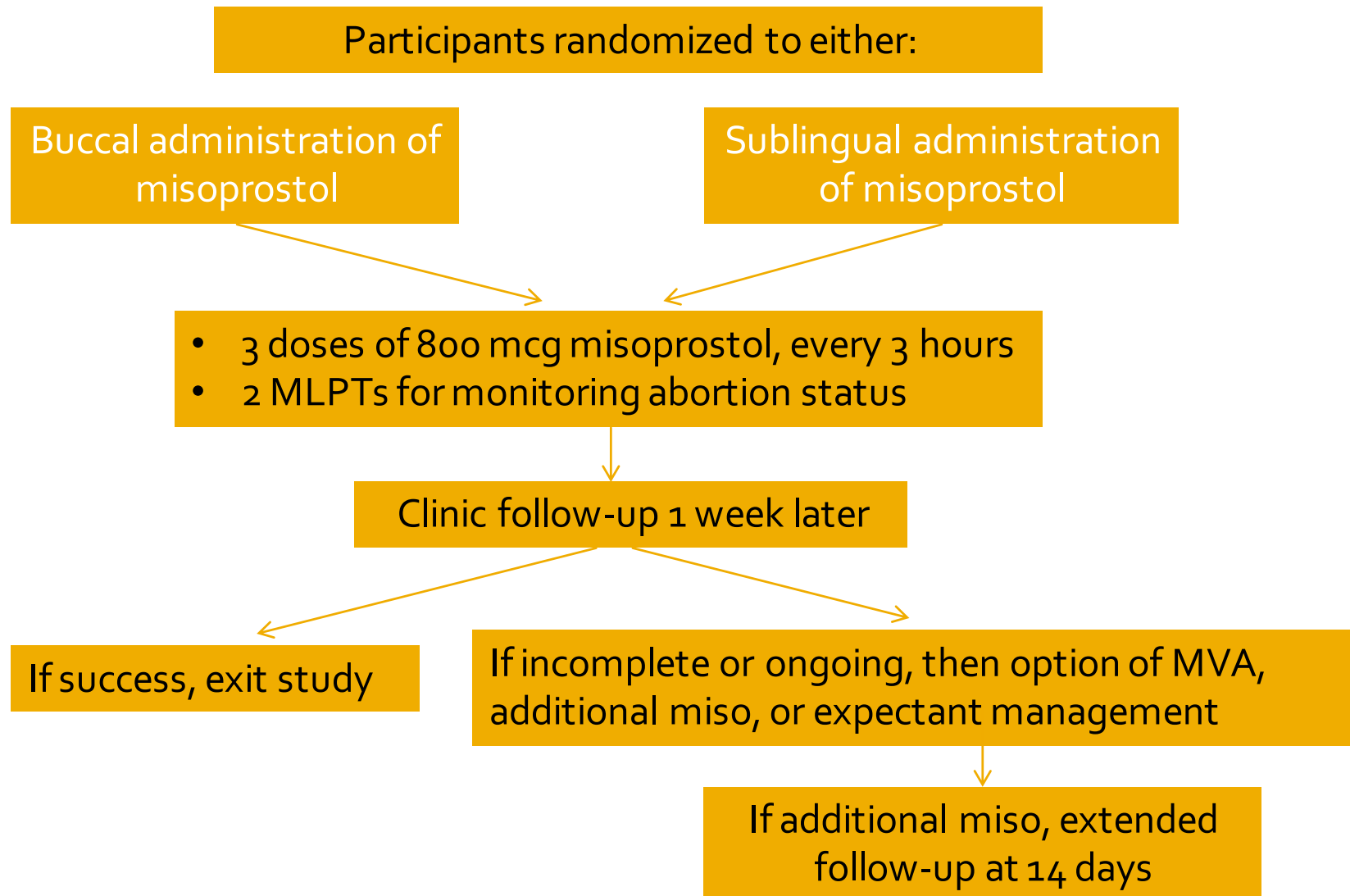
Study Objectives

- Examine efficacy and acceptability of two misoprostol-only regimens commonly used in Latin America
- Examine feasibility of a multi-level pregnancy test (MLPT) for at-home follow-up after medical abortion

Study Background

- **Enrollment:** 382 pregnant women \leq 70 days LMP
- **Study sites:** 6 health clinics, 2 Latin American countries
- **Outcomes:**
 - Rates of ongoing pregnancy
 - Safety, side effects and acceptability of misoprostol regimens
 - Women's ability to use MLPT for home follow-up
 - Acceptability of MLPT for home follow-up

Procedures



Participant Characteristics

	Sublingual group (n=188)	Buccal group (n=188)
Country of residence: % (n)		
Country A	60.6 (114)	61.2 (115)
Country B	39.4 (74)	38.8 (73)
Education: % (n)		
Primary or less	18.7 (35)	15.0 (28)
Secondary or higher	78.6 (147)	84.5 (158)
Mean age in years \pm SD	27.0 \pm 7.3	27.1 \pm 7.0
Gestational age in days \pm SD	48.6 \pm 10.6	47.4 \pm 9.5
Mean parity \pm SD	2.7 \pm 1.5	2.8 \pm 1.8

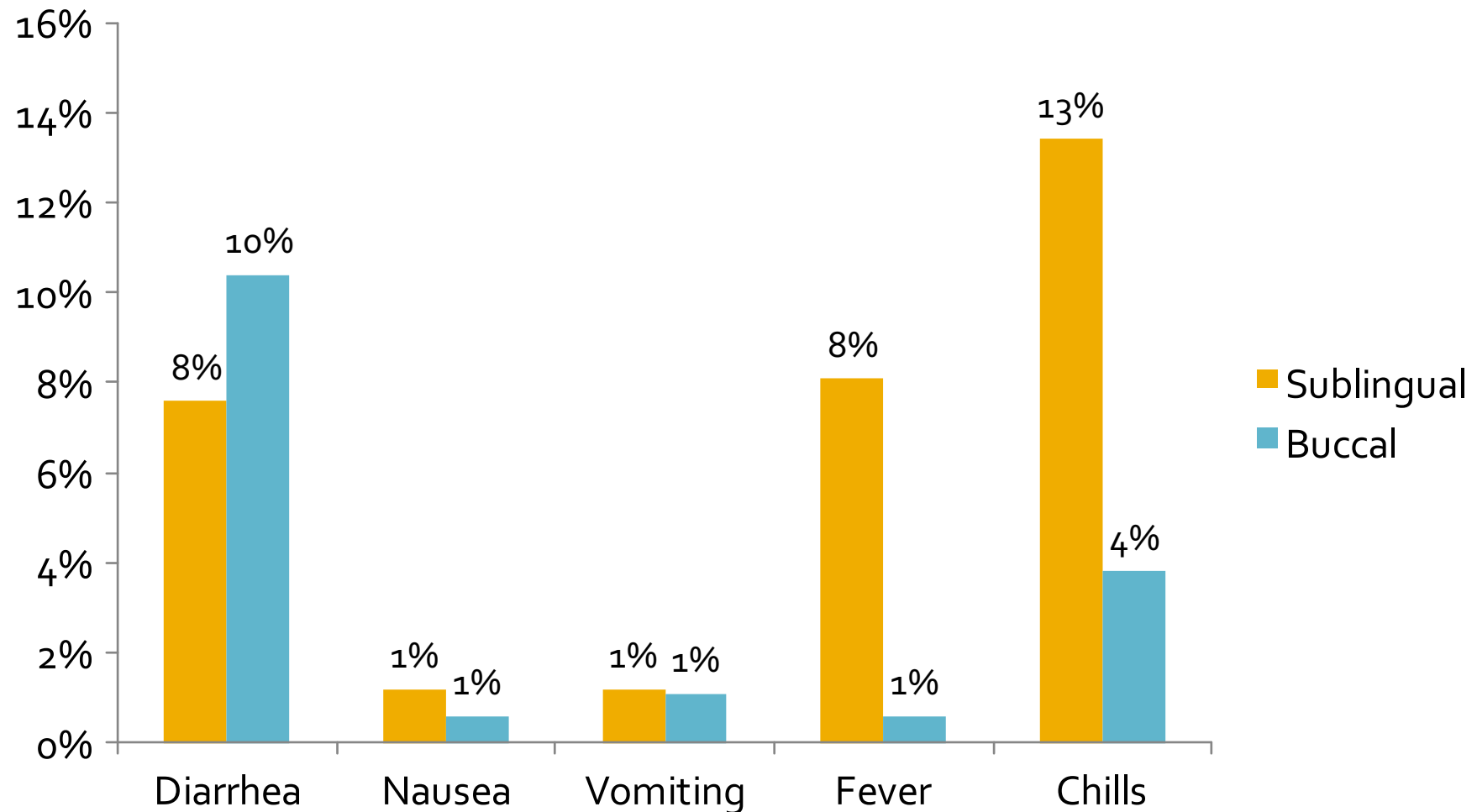
Abortion Outcomes at 1 Week Follow-Up Visit

	Sublingual group (n=175)	Buccal group (n=185)
Success	87.0 (154)	86.4 (159)
Incomplete abortion	11.3 (20)	8.7 (16)
Ongoing pregnancy	1.7 (3)	4.9 (9)
Action taken for incomplete cases	<i>n=20</i>	<i>n=16</i>
Surgery	5	4
Additional dose of miso	12	11
Expectant management	1	1
Action taken for ongoing pregnancies	<i>n=3</i>	<i>n=9</i>
Surgery	1	3
Additional dose of miso	2	6

Final Abortion Outcomes by Study Group

	Sublingual group (n=175)	Buccal group (n=185)
Final outcome		
Success	94.3 (165)	91.9 (170)
Surgical intervention	5.7 (10)	8.1 (15)
Reason for surgical intervention	n=10	n=15
Ongoing pregnancy	1	5
Persistent or nonviable pregnancy or sac	9	4
Substantial debris in uterus	0	4
Excessive bleeding	0	1
Requested by woman	0	1
Would choose medical abortion for future procedure	89.5 (153)	84.6 (154)

Incidence of Severe Side Effects by Study Group



MLPT Results

	No ongoing pregnancy (n=347)	Ongoing pregnancy (n=6)
Negative result (decline in hCG concentration)	292	0
Positive result (stable or increase in hCG concentration)	55	6

Sensitivity=6/6=100%

Specificity=292/347= 84%

Conclusions

- Lower than expected rates of ongoing pregnancy in both study groups
- Both routes of administration are effective and acceptable to women
 - However severe fever and chills may be greater if taken sublingually
- MLPTs are an effective tool for medical abortion follow-up in both settings

Thank you!

