



## [Clostridium sordellii toxic shock syndrome after medical abortion with mifepristone and intravaginal misoprostol--United States and Canada, 2001-2005.](https://arctichealth.org/en/permalink/ahliterature173601)

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Abstract: On July 19, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a public health advisory regarding the deaths of four women in the United States after medical abortions with Mifeprex (mifepristone, formerly RU-486; Danco Laboratories, New York, New York) and intravaginal misoprostol. Two of these deaths occurred in 2003, one in 2004, and one in 2005. Two of these U.S. cases had clinical illness consistent with toxic shock and had evidence of endometrial infection with *Clostridium sordellii*, a gram-positive, toxin-forming anaerobic bacteria. In addition, a fatal case of *C. sordellii* toxic shock syndrome after medical abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol was reported in 2001, in Canada. All three cases of *C. sordellii* infection were notable for lack of fever, and all had refractory hypotension, multiple effusions, hemoconcentration, and a profound leukocytosis. *C. sordellii* previously has been described as a cause of pregnancy-associated toxic shock syndrome.

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