

Facts About

IMPLANTS



What is an Implant?

The Implant is a birth control method for women that involves the insertion of a flexible, matchstick size rod under the skin of a woman's upper arm. This method lasts up to three years.

How does it work?

Like birth control pills, the implant works by releasing a female hormone in your body. This hormone prevents pregnancy in the following ways:

- Keeps the body from releasing an egg that could be fertilized by a man's sperm
- Causes changes to the

cervical mucus making it more difficult for sperm to enter the uterus

- Keeps a fertilized egg from attaching to the uterus

How well does it work?

Implants prevent pregnancy about 99 percent of the time. This means it works about as well as having your tubes tied, but it is not permanent.

Why is an Implant a good choice for me?

Once an Implant is put in, there is nothing to remember. Implants work all the time for

three years. If you decide you want to get pregnant before the three years is over, it can be removed and your ability to get pregnant comes back quickly.

Is there anyone who should not use the Implant?

You should not use it if:

1. You think you are pregnant
2. You have ever had breast cancer or liver tumors
3. You are having unusual bleeding from the vagina

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Will I have any problems if I use the Implant?

Most women do not have many problems when they use the Implant. Many women who use it may see a change in how often they bleed in a month. Some bleed more, some a little, others may not bleed at all. These changes are normal. After your body gets used to the implant, your periods will probably get more regular.

Sometimes an Implant will cause you to gain a little weight, feel sick to your stomach, feel nervous or moody, or cause acne or headaches. If you have any of these problems, they usually do not last long.

Can I use it if I am taking other medicine?

An Implant will not work as well as it should if you take medicine for seizures, certain antibiotics, and herbal medicine such as St. John's Wort. Talk to your provider about any medication you are taking before you decide to use the Implant.

Are there any warning signs I need to watch for?

Serious problems are rare, but because the Implant is a medicine, it can cause a problem for some people. Call your doctor or nurse if any of these warning signs happen to you:

1. Heavy, ongoing bleeding from your vagina.
2. Pain in your arm or any pus, bleeding or red skin where the implant was put in.
3. Implant rod came out.
4. Bad pain in your stomach, legs or chest.
5. Shortness of breath, sudden vision or speech problems.
6. Bad headache, dizziness or vomiting.

To help you to be healthy, it is best that you do not smoke while using the Implant.

Where can I get an Implant?

Contact your local health department to find a provider.

Can I breastfeed my baby if I have an Implant?

Yes, but it is best to wait about 4 weeks to establish breastfeeding before getting an Implant.

How is an Implant removed?

The implant is effective for 3 years but can be removed at any time. Your health care provider will numb the area with a painkiller and will usually make a small cut to remove the implant. Removal usually takes just a few minutes. Removal may be more difficult if the implant moves from the original location or if scar tissue develops around the implant. A new implant may be inserted at this time.

REMEMBER:

Implants will not keep you from getting HIV or AIDS, or any other disease you can get when you have sex. To help protect yourself, use a latex condom each time you have sex.

DOCTOR/CLINIC PHONE NUMBER:

This publication made possible by a federal Title X Family Planning Grant.