

Implant

The contraceptive implant is a thin, matchstick-sized, flexible rod inserted under the skin of your upper arm by your healthcare provider. The implant contains a small amount of progestin similar to the hormones that are naturally made in a woman's body. This hormone prevents an egg from being released from the ovary. The implant also thickens cervical mucus to prevent sperm from reaching an egg.

Advantages of the Implant

- More than 99 percent effective
- Lasts up to 3 years
- Completely reversible once removed
- Some women may stop having periods completely.
- You can get the implant immediately after giving birth.
- Safe with breastfeeding

Disadvantages of the Implant

- Irregular bleeding and spotting are common
- Pain or scarring at the insertion site
- Possible side effects, including weight gain, headache, acne or change in mood
- Small increased risk of developing cysts on the ovaries

Risks of using the Implant

- **Infection:** It is possible, but rare, to get an infection from insertion of the implant.
- **Deep Insertion and/or Migration of the Implant:** This is very rare..

The Implant should not used by women who:

- Have an allergy to the hormone etonogestrel
- Have unexplained vaginal bleeding that they have not discussed with their health care provider
- Have certain types of liver disease

Tell your health care provider if you have any of these risk factors or conditions, or any other medical concerns.

Insertion of the Implant

Your upper, inner arm will be cleaned and injected with a numbing medicine. The implant will then be inserted

just under the skin by your health care provider. Both you and your health care provider should be able to feel the implant after it has been put in.

After Insertion

- A bandage should cover the implant area for at least 5 days.
- Bruising and mild discomfort are common.

Warning Signs:

Call your health care provider right away if you:

- Notice redness, swelling, or unusual pain at the insertion site
- Think you might be pregnant
- Think you might have a sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Have unusual or very heavy vaginal bleeding
- Are unable to feel your implant

Removal of the Implant

The implant is removed at your health care provider's office. After injecting the area with numbing medicine, a small cut will be made and the implant will be removed. If your health care provider cannot feel the implant under your skin, you will have tests to locate it before it can be removed safely.

Your Health

The implant does not protect against STIs.

Condoms are the best way for sexually active people to reduce the risk of infection. Always use a condom when you have sex. Get yearly health check-ups, including testing for STIs.



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