

Progestin Implant



What is the implant?



The implant is a thin plastic rod about the size of a paper matchstick. It is placed under the skin of your upper arm.

It prevents pregnancy by releasing a small amount of progestin (a hormone like the one your body makes).

It is FDA-approved for 3 years and works for up to 5 years. After 3-5 years, you can get a new implant if you want one. If you don't like it or decide to get pregnant, your clinician can remove the implant at any time.

How well does it work?

The implant works better to prevent pregnancy than the pill, patch, ring, and shot. It is over 99% effective. Less than 1 in 100 people using the implant for a year get pregnant.

Is it safe?

Yes.

How is it inserted?

After numbing your skin, a clinician inserts the implant under the skin of your upper arm. This takes a few minutes. It is done in the office or clinic.

How is it removed?

A clinician numbs your skin and makes a small cut to remove the implant. This takes a few minutes. The implant can be removed at any time. It is removed in the office or clinic.

What do people like about the implant?

The implant is safe, effective, and easy to use. Once you have it, it works on its own – you don't have to do anything. It's a great option for people who want to prevent pregnancy for a long time. It's great for people who prefer to avoid methods that contain estrogen. You do not need a pelvic exam to get the implant. And, it's safe to use while breast/Chestfeeding.

What are the side effects?

The implant causes periods to change. **Most** people have frequent off-and-on spotting that is hard to predict. You may have longer or shorter bleeding during periods or have no bleeding at all. This is normal. Bleeding changes may last until the implant is removed. A **few** people have: mood changes, weight gain, headache, acne, and/or skin changes in the upper arm. Most side effects go away when the implant is removed.

Can people see it?

Most people can't see it, but you can feel it if you touch the skin over the implant.

How much does it cost?

Insertion costs \$0-\$2,300, and removal costs \$0-\$300. Most insurance plans and Medicaid cover the implant.

Does it protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)?

No, it does NOT protect you from STIs. If you want to protect against HIV and other STIs, use an external condom or internal condom every time you have sex (even with the implant in place).

Is it easy to get pregnant after the implant is removed?

After a clinician removes the implant, you can get pregnant right away.