

Where can you get an implant?

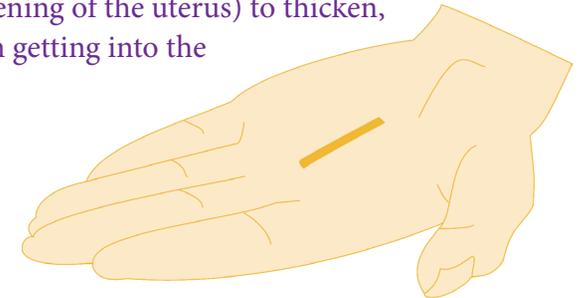
Insertion is done by a qualified health care provider. Call your local family planning clinic for information. Ask your provider about the availability of Nexplanon®.

Implants

How an implant works

An implant is a small, flexible capsule or rod that is placed under the skin of the upper, inner arm. An implant is filled with a low-dose hormone (progestin) that is continually released into your body and is effective for three years.

Because of the constant presence of the progestin hormone, implants work by stopping your body from releasing an egg so that no egg is present to be fertilized, by causing the cervical mucus (liquid at the opening of the uterus) to thicken, which stops sperm from getting into the uterus.



How to use an implant

To insert an implant, your health care provider will give you a local anesthetic (similar to what dentists use). Your provider will insert the implant into your upper arm through a special needle. You will feel pressure and later you may have some discomfort and bruising at the place of insertion for a short time. Your health care provider will give you follow up instructions.

Removal of an implant requires a minor surgical procedure that typically takes only a few minutes. An implant can be removed at any time; it is not required that the implant be used for the full three years.

Effectiveness

The implant is in the Tier 1 level of contraceptive effectiveness because once the implant has been placed the woman does not have to do anything else to prevent pregnancy. The implant is a highly effective, long-acting, reversible contraceptive (LARC) method. Less than 1 woman in 100 is likely to become pregnant within 1 year of use. An implant is effective for three years. Once the implant is removed, a woman can get pregnant immediately. The implant can be removed before three years.

Benefits of an implant

Implants provide continuous and easy protection from pregnancy and it does not interrupt sexual activity. Some women with an implant will have very light bleeding throughout the month. Other women may stop having periods, especially after the first year. Women who cannot take estrogen because of certain health problems can use an implant.

Women can use an implant while breastfeeding.

Potential side effects and disadvantages

The most common side effects of an implant are irregular and unpredictable bleeding. Bleeding can be heavy or light, last for a few days or many days, or there may be no bleeding at all for several weeks. The longer a woman uses the implant, the more likely her periods will stop. If a woman is not comfortable with irregular bleeding, or not having a period, the implant may not be a good option of birth control for her.

For more specific information about potential side effects ask a health care provider.

Using an implant will not provide protection against HIV (AIDS) or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, herpes, genital warts (HPV), gonorrhea, hepatitis B and syphilis.

Potential risks

Some women should not use implants because of certain health conditions. Your health care provider will talk with you about potential health conditions that would prevent you from using the implant. There are very few complications with the use of an implant.