

Withdrawal*

How withdrawal works

Withdrawal prevents fertilization by not allowing semen (and sperm) to enter the vagina; sperm does not reach the egg.

How to use withdrawal

While having intercourse, before the man ejaculates, he pulls his penis out of the woman's vagina and away from her genitals. The man must depend on his judgment of his physical sensations to decide when he is about to ejaculate in order to withdraw in time.

Effectiveness

Withdrawal is in the Tier 3 level of contraceptive effectiveness because preventing pregnancy depends largely on the man's ability to withdraw his penis before he ejaculates. Typically 22 women out of 100 are likely to get pregnant within 1 year of use. Men who are less experienced with using this method or men who have a difficult time knowing when they will ejaculate will have a greater risk of failure.



**ejaculation
in vagina**

*Withdrawal is Coitus Interruptus

Benefits of withdrawal

This method has no health risks or side effects. There is nothing to buy. It is an acceptable method for some couples with religious concerns about birth control. It is a back up method if no other methods are available.

Potential side effects and disadvantages

Just before ejaculation the man may feel the urge to go deeper and it may be a difficult time to withdraw. For individuals or for couples, interruption of the excitement phase may decrease pleasure.

Using withdrawal as a method of birth control 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

No health risks.

Emergency contraception is available if the man doesn't "pull out" in time. If you have unprotected sex unexpectedly, ask a doctor, a health provider, or a pharmacist about Emergency Contraception (EC). For more information about EC visit the website <http://www.ec.princeton.edu>.



**ejaculation
in vagina**