



Progestin Implant

What is the implant?	<p>The implant is a thin plastic tube about the size of a paper matchstick. It is inserted under the skin of your upper arm.</p> <p>It prevents pregnancy by releasing a small amount of progestin (a hormone). It works for 3 years. After 3 years, you can get a new implant if you want one.</p>
How well does it work?	<p>The implant works better than the pill, the patch, the ring, and the shot. It prevents pregnancy in 99% of women who use it.</p>
Is it safe?	<p>Yes.</p>
How is it inserted?	<p>After numbing your skin, a medical provider inserts the implant under the skin of your upper arm. This takes a few minutes. It is done in the office or clinic.</p>
How is it removed?	<p>A medical provider 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.</p>
What are the benefits?	<p>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. You can use it while breastfeeding. It's great for many women who can't use birth control pills, patch, or ring.</p>
What are the side effects?	<p>The implant causes periods to change. Most women have off-and-on spotting. Spotting may last until the implant is removed. A few women 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.</p>
Can people see it?	<p>Most people can't see it, but you can feel it if you touch the skin over the implant.</p>
How much does it cost?	<p>Insertion costs \$400-800, and removal costs \$75-150. Most insurance plans cover the implant.</p>
Does it protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections?	<p>No, it does NOT protect you from sexually transmitted infections. Unless you and your partner have sex only with each other, you should use a condom every time you have sex (even with the implant in place).</p>
Is it easy to get pregnant after the implant is removed?	<p>Most women get pregnant quickly after a medical provider removes the implant.</p>