

Implanon

How it works:

Implanon is a hormonal implant containing progesterone. It is a flexible plastic rod the size of a matchstick that is put under the skin of your arm in an office procedure. Implanon prevents pregnancy primarily by suppressing ovulation or release of the egg from a woman's ovary.

Effectiveness:

Implanon is considered 99.95% effective .

Benefits:

- Highly effective
- Ease of use. Once inserted it provides 3 years of birth control without daily attention.
- Discreet. Does not require contraceptive supplies. In most users the rod is not visible under the skin.
- No estrogen and few clinically significant metabolic effects so able to be used by most women even when combined hormonal contraceptives (such as the pill) are contraindicated due to medical concerns.
- Relief of menstrual cramps.
- Over time this method is very cost effective

Disadvantages:

- Irregular bleeding that is unpredictable and may include prolonged bleeding, frequent bleeding, infrequent bleeding or no bleeding at all. While not dangerous this side effect can be inconvenient.
- Minor side effects. While uncommon symptoms such as headache, emotional lability, loss of libido, vaginal dryness and weight gain have been reported.
- Rare insertion complications such as local skin infection or rod expulsion.
- Clinician-dependency. Implant must be inserted and removed by a clinician.
- Lack of protection from sexually transmitted diseases.
- Initial cost is higher, however many insurance plans will cover the cost of an IUD. UHS is also able to create a payment plan.

Discuss full benefits, risks and alternatives with your healthcare provider.

To schedule or cancel appointments, call: 863-0774 or schedule your appointment online through the UHS website.

For more information about health care issues, visit the UHS Web site at www.sa.psu.edu/uhs

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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