


# Progestin Implant (Implanon™)

<p><b>What is the implant?</b></p>	 <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><b>How does it work?</b></p>	<p>It prevents pregnancy by releasing a small amount of progestin (a hormone). It prevents pregnancy for up to 3 years. After 3 years, you can get a new implant if you want one. (You can remove it at any time if you don't like it.)</p>
<p><b>How well does it work?</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Is it safe?</b></p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p><b>How is it inserted?</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>How is it removed?</b></p>	<p>A medical provider numbs your skin and makes a small cut to remove the implant. This takes a few minutes. It can be removed at any time if you don't like it or want to become pregnant. It is removed in the office or clinic.</p>
<p><b>What are the benefits?</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>What are the side effects?</b></p>	<p>The implant causes periods to change. <b>Most</b> women have off-and-on spotting. Spotting may last until the implant is removed. A few women have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mood changes</li> <li>• weight gain</li> <li>• headache</li> <li>• acne</li> <li>• skin changes in the upper arm</li> </ul> <p>Most side effects go away when the implant is removed.</p>
<p><b>Can people see it?</b></p>	<p>Most people can't see it, but you can feel it if you touch the skin over the implant.</p>
<p><b>How much does it cost?</b></p>	<p>Insertion costs \$400-800, and removal costs \$75-150. Most insurance plans cover the implant.</p>
<p><b>Does it protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections?</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Is it easy to get pregnant after it is removed?</b></p>	<p>Most women get pregnant quickly after a medical provider removes the implant.</p>