


Progestin Implant

<p>What is the implant?</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>It prevents pregnancy by releasing a small amount of progestin (a hormone). It works for 4 years. After 4 years, you can get a new implant if you want one.</p>
<p>How well does it work?</p>	<p>The implant works better than the pill, the patch, the ring, and the shot. It is over 99% effective.</p>
<p>Is it safe?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>How is it inserted?</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>How is it removed?</p>	<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>
<p>What are the benefits?</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 people who can't use birth control pills, patch, or ring.</p>
<p>What are the side effects?</p>	<p>The implant causes periods to change. Most people have off-and-on spotting. Spotting may last until the implant is removed. A few people 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>
<p>Can people see it?</p>	<p>Most people can't see it, but you can feel it if you touch the skin over the implant.</p>
<p>How much does it cost?</p>	<p>Insertion costs \$400-800, and removal costs \$75-150. Most insurance plans cover the implant.</p>
<p>Does it protect against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections?</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>Is it easy to get pregnant after the implant is removed?</p>	<p>Most people get pregnant quickly after a medical provider removes the implant.</p>