


# Progestin Implant

<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>It prevents pregnancy by releasing a small amount of progestin (a hormone). It works for 5 years. After 5 years, you can get a new implant if you want one.</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 is over 99% effective.</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 clinician 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 clinician 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><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 breast/ chestfeeding.</p> <p>It's great for many people who can't use birth control pills, patch, or ring. It can also be great for people who prefer to avoid methods that contain estrogen.</p>
<p><b>What are the side effects?</b></p>	<p>The implant causes periods to change. <b>Most</b> people have off-and-on spotting. Spotting may last until the implant is removed. A <b>few</b> 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><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 the implant is removed?</b></p>	<p>Most people get pregnant quickly after a clinician removes the implant.</p>