Contraception - Your Choice Contact Family Planning for detailed information on any of these methods



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Method	What is it? How does it work?	Chance of getting pregnant	Health concerns	Advantages	Disadvantages
LONG ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTION					
IMPLANT	 progestogen is released from 1 or 2 rods implanted under the skin of the arm by thickening mucus in cervix and may stop ovaries from releasing an egg each month 	 less than 1% 	 no serious risk 	 lasts 3 - 5 years useful for women who can't take combined pill useful for those who forget pills or injection appointments 	 irregular bleeding often gets better with time
INTRA UTERINE DEVICE - IUD	 Put inside the womb Copper IUD or progestogen- releasing Mirena (IUS) stops sperm reaching an egg 	 IUD and Mirena – less than 1% 	 very small chance of pelvic infection when IUD put in 	 doesn't interfere with sexual intercourse can stay in place for 5 years or more IUS – lighter periods or no period at all, suitable for women with heavy periods 	 needs to be inserted by an experienced doctor or nurse IUD may cause heavier periods or cramping IUS may cause irregular bleeding in the first few months
DEPO PROVERA	 an injection of progestogen stops ovaries from releasing an egg each month 	less than 1%	 no serious concerns 	 one injection lasts 12 weeks doesn't interfere with sexual intercourse usually no periods useful for women who can't take combined pill 	 irregular bleeding, no periods or occasional heavy bleeding periods and fertility take an average of 6 months to return after stopping the injection may have change in weight
	 pill made of two hormones, 	 less than 1/% if you take it 	• Very small change of blood	 simple and essure take 	 should not be used by warrant
	 pill made of two hormones, oestrogen and progestogen stops ovaries from releasing an egg each month 	properly	 very small chance of blood clots, heart attacks and strokes. More likely in women over 35 who smoke, are obese or have a family history of the above conditions very slight increased risk of cervical cancer 	 simple and easy to take doesn't interfere with sexual intercourse periods usually regular, shorter, lighter and less painful less chance of cancer of lining of the womb or ovaries can be taken up to menopause if a healthy non smoker 	 should not be used by women over 35 who smoke must remember to take it daily may have irregular bleeding
PROGESTOGEN ONLY PILL	 pill made of one hormone – progestogen by thickening mucus in cervix and may stop ovaries from releasing an egg each month 	 less than 1/% if you take it properly 	 no serious risk 	 doesn't interfere with sexual intercourse can be used at any age can be used by breast-feeding women useful for women who can't take combined pill 	 may have irregular bleeding
VAGINAL RING	 NuvaRing contains two hormones, oestrogen and progestogen Sits inside vagina Stops ovaries from releasing an egg each month 	 less than 1% 	 very small chance of blood clots, heart attacks and strokes. More likely in women over 35 who smoke, are obese or have a family history of the above conditions 	 Lasts for 3-4 weeks Useful for those who forget pills 	 Should not be used by women over 35 who smoke
BARRIERS			e none known		e como pooplo aro allarais to
CONDOM	 a thin rubber barrier fits over erect penis and catches sperm when the man ejaculates best used with lubricant (water based) 	 2-15% depending on correct and consistent use DO NOT USE oil-based lubricant or some anti thrush creams 	• none known	 easy to use, easy to carry used only when needed helps protect against STIs available from Family Planning clinics and other health care providers can buy from pubs, clubs, pharmacies and many shops cheaper on prescription 	 some people are allergic to rubber must be put on when penis is erect and before sexual intercourse some people say it reduces sexual feeling can slip off or break
DIAPHRAGM	 dome shaped silicone barrier fits inside vagina over the cervix used with spermicide jelly that kills sperm 	 6-16% depending on whether you use spermicide and how carefully you follow the instructions 	 more bladder infections for some women 	 can be put in several hours before sexual intercourse used only when needed helps protect against STIs 	 first fitting should be by an experienced nurse or doctor some women find it hard to put in and take out can be messy spermicide may irritate vagina or penis must be left in place at least 6 hours after sexual intercourse
FERTILITY AWARENESS	woman checks body	2-25% depending on how	none	after learning method, no	expert instruction needed to
	temperature, cervical mucus and periods. These body signs show when you are more likely to get pregnant	carefully you follow the instructions		further costs or visits to health professionals required • helps you understand how your body works	 learn method no sexual intercourse during fertile time must chart temperature and cervical mucus daily body signs can be difficult to recognise and may vary
EMERGENCY CONTRACE	Emergency Contraceptive	• ECP – 1-2%	ECP – none known	 reduces chance of pregnancy 	ECP should be started within
PERMANENT CONTRACE	 Pills (ECP) or copper IUD used after unprotected sexual intercourse delays ovulation or stops sperm reaching an egg 	• IUD – less than 1%	IUD – risk of pelvic infection if STI present	 after unprotected sexual intercourse ECP – can be used up to 72 hours after unprotected sexual intercourse can have ECP at home for future use can be used if other method fails, eg. broken condom or missed pill can buy from pharmacies 	 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse IUD needs to be fitted by an experienced doctor or nurse and can be uncomfortable
	permanent contraception	less than 1%	 vasectomy – rare possibility 	once only	not easily reversible
VASECTOMY & TUBAL LIGATION	 an operation vasectomy – male tubes cut to stop the sperm getting to the penis tubal ligation – clips put on female tubes to stop the egg getting to the uterus 		of long term scrotal pain • tubal ligation – very slight risk from reaction to anaesthetic or damage to internal organs	• permanent	 requires an operation may have short term side effects, eg. pain, bruising