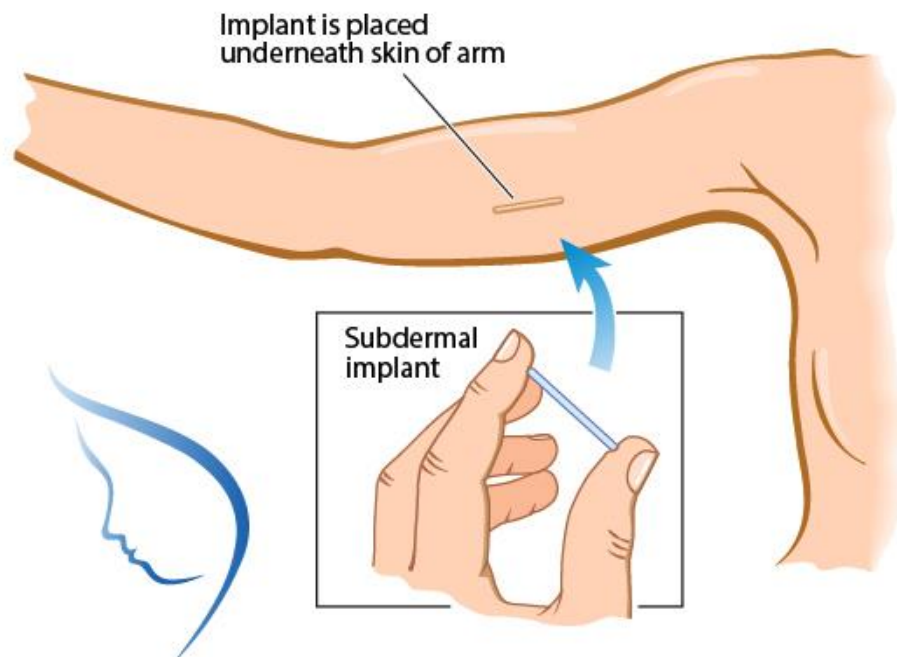


IMPLANON

What is Implanon?

Implanon is a contraceptive implant. Implanon contains etonogestrel, a synthetic hormone similar to one of the hormones commonly found in oral contraceptive pills. It is a small, flexible plastic rod that is inserted just under the skin of the inside of the left arm (or the right arm if the woman is left handed). Insertion requires a small surgical procedure under local anaesthetic. Insertion and removal should be performed by a doctor who is familiar with the technique.



How does Implanon Work?

The Implanon implant continuously releases a small amount of the hormone progestogen. This hormone prevents a woman's ovaries from releasing an egg each month inhibiting ovulation and providing contraception for up to 3 years. The hormone also changes the cervical mucus and this prevents sperm penetration. The implant must be removed at the end of 3 years but may be removed at any time. After removal there is a rapid return to pre-existing fertility.

How effective is Implanon?

Implanon is a highly effective method of contraception. Typical use of Implanon achieves contraceptive protection that exceeds 99%. It is important to remember however that NO contraceptive method is 100% effective. However Implanon implants DO NOT protect women from sexually transmitted diseases, infection or HIV/AIDS.

Who might not be able to use Implanon?

Implanon might not be suitable for women who:

- Suspect they may be pregnant
- Have severe liver disease
- Have unusual vaginal bleeding
- Have had blood clots in the veins
- Are unable to take synthetic progesterone
- **What are the Disadvantages of Implanon?**

All women experiences changes in their menstrual cycles. Some women will have less bleeding than before the implant, some will have no bleeding and some will experience more frequent or prolonged bleeding. Some women will experience side effects similar to those sometimes seen in women using the oral contraceptive pill such as headaches and acne.

How is Implanon Inserted?

The implant is supplied in a sterile, preloaded applicator. The insertion procedure only takes a few minutes and is performed under local anaesthetic by a doctor who is familiar with the proper insertion technique.

The Implanon implant is inserted directly under the skin and the doctor will show you how to gently feel the implant after insertion. You should be able to feel, but not see the implant. After insertion a pressure bandage will be put on your arm and it should be kept in place for 24 hours to minimise the risk of bruising. Some women also find that healing of the insertion area may itch slightly for several days. It is important to avoid manipulation of the rod after insertion.

Nerve response causing a short lived drop in blood pressure (called a Vagal reflex) can sometimes occur and this can be associated with Nausea. Your consent to this procedure means you consent to measures that may be required to manage the complication.

How is Implanon Removed?

In general the removal of the implant is a short procedure that is done by your doctor. A local anaesthetic is used, removal requires a 3 – 5mm incision. A small scar will remain. After removal a pressure bandage will be put on your arm and it should be kept in place for 24 hours to minimise bruising.