



Nexplanon Birth Control Implant

What is Nexplanon?

Nexplanon is about the size of a matchstick, is made of soft plastic and is inserted just beneath the skin on the inner side of the upper arm by a healthcare provider during an in-office procedure. Nexplanon continually releases a low, steady dose of progestin (etonogestrel) to prevent pregnancy for up to 3 years.



How does Nexplanon work?

1. Nexplanon prevents pregnancy by stopping the release of an egg from your ovary.
2. Nexplanon changes the mucus in the cervix which helps keep sperm from reaching the egg.
3. Nexplanon makes the lining of the uterus thin so that it does not allow a pregnancy to grow.

Benefits and Effectiveness

Nexplanon can be used for 3 years - it does not require daily, weekly or monthly dosing. It is inserted in the doctor's office in just a few minutes! Nexplanon should only be inserted by a trained healthcare provider. When Nexplanon is inserted properly, the chance of getting pregnant is less than one pregnancy per 100 women. Nexplanon is a great option for women not ready for sterilization. Nexplanon is a discreet method of birth control.

Common Side Effects/Risks

Irregular bleeding is the most common side effect. Some women have more bleeding, less bleeding or no bleeding. The time between periods may also vary, and in between periods, you may have spotting. As with many progestin-only birth control methods, mood swings, weight gain, headache, acne and depression may occur.

What If I want to get Nexplanon removed?

Nexplanon can be removed by a trained healthcare provider at any time with a minor surgical procedure in the office. A small incision will be made to remove the rod from the patient's arm. A local anesthetic is used for the procedure. Some minor bruising, redness, swelling and/or pain may occur at the site.

Removals of inserted implants can cause scarring, and sometimes deep insertions may cause nerve damage, or other complications. Rarely, removal of Nexplanon is difficult or impossible because it is not where it should be. Deep insertions may be needed in order to properly and safely remove the rod.

Is this Norplant?

No. Nexplanon is the only implantable contraceptive device currently available in the United States. U.S. distribution of Norplant, another implantable contraceptive, was stopped in 2000 after questions surfaced about the strength of certain lots of the drug. Two years later, the company decided not to reintroduce Norplant to the U.S. market.