

hormone being released
s and side effects are virtually the
COC. It is immediately protective
days 1–5 of the menstrual cycle. It
after 21 days with a break of 7 days
ack-to-back'. The cycle control is
ed incidence of irregular bleeding.
e useful for women who prefer the
to missing pills, or women with
l disease or other malabsorption
ommended that the vaginal ring is
course.

rone 5 mg bd or tds for 3 days
riod
days after stopping tablets

Contraception⁷

ng orally as a single dose

as a single dose (double
>26) within 4 days

(25 × 30 mcg) as an initial
e dose 12 hours later
ithin 5 days

a selective progesterone
by preventing or delaying
ore effectively than the
ontraceptive pill (LNG-
use only up to 72 hours
ss for both is improved

effective at 99% and can
contraception. It may be
nan seeking postcoital
pregnancy testing in
r risk. STI screening
ontraception should be

nd female condoms
ed correctly, male

disadvantages depend on the
cooperation of the user.

Diaphragms are inserted at any convenient time
before intercourse and removed after 6 hours have
elapsed since the last act of intercourse. Efficacy is
82% and support may be required to ensure correct
insertion and coverage of the cervix.

Fertility awareness methods

These methods require high motivation and some
require regular menstrual cycles.

Basal body temperature method

Coitus should occur only after there has been a rise in
basal body temperature of 0.2°C for 3 days (72 hours)
above the basal body temperature measurement
during the preceding 6 days, until the onset of the next
menstrual period.

Calendar or rhythm method

The woman reviews and records six cycle lengths and
then selects the shortest and longest cycles. She then
subtracts 21 from the shortest cycle and 10 from the
longest cycle to work out fertile and safe days (i.e.
for a 26 to 30-day cycle: fertile days 5–20; for regular
28-day cycle: fertile days 7–18).

Billings ovulation method^{7,11}

This method is based on keeping a daily record of the
sensation at the vulva and the appearance of the mucus,
so that ovulation can be recognised and intercourse,
in the pre-ovulatory time, can be confined to when
the record shows an unchanging pattern, signalling
unchanging hormones and thus infertility. The
fertile phase commences when there is a change in
the sensation or mucus, correlating with a rise in
oestrogen. This sensation at the vulva will become
progressively more lubricative and will be followed
by a definite change to being no longer slippery
(caused by rising progesterone). The peak day of
fertility is the last day of the slippery sensation,
with or without the visual presence of mucus. The
postovulatory infertile phase begins on the fourth
day after the peak day. Regular cycles are not
required for successful use of the Billings ovulation
method.

Lactation
(LAM)⁵
LAM is as
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Ceasing menopau

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30 IU/L o
is not requ

Permanent methods

Vasectomy
A vasecto
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the testes

Table 92.1 Effectiveness of contraceptive methods⁵

Contraceptive method	Typical use	Effectiveness (%)
		Perfect use (consistent and correct)
Implant (etonogestrel)	99.95	99.5
Intra-uterine contraceptive device:		
• copper	99.5	99.5
• levonorgestrel	99.7–99.9	99.7–99.9
Sterilisation (male and female)	99.5	99.5
Depot medroxyprogesterone	96	99.8
Combined oral contraceptive pill	93	99.5
Vaginal ring	93	99.5
Progestogen-only pill	93	99.5
Barrier:		
• female:		
– diaphragm	82	86
– condom	79	95
• male:		
– condom	88	98
Withdrawal	80	96
Fertility awareness-based methods	76–93	95–99.6

Source: Adapted from Effectiveness of contraceptive method [published 2020]. In: Therapeutic Guidelines [digital]. Melbourne: Therapeutic Guidelines Limited; 2020. www.tg.org.au, accessed April 2021.

Hormonal contraception

Methods of hormonal contraception include:^{5,7}

- Progestogen-only contraceptives:
 - etonogestrel implant (Implanon NXT)
 - levonorgestrel-releasing IUD (Mirena, Kyleena)
 - depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA)

Progestogen-only contraception^{5,7}

Progestogen-only methods include the progestogen-only pill, implant, IUD and injection. These methods are generally safe in women who are breastfeeding or have a contraindication to taking oestrogen. Progestogen-only contraception is contraindicated in women with active breast cancer within the past 5 years (MEC 4), and in women with other contraindications. The harms