

Genitourinary Medicine

Emergency contraception – Levonelle 1500 and Emergency IUD

Information for patients



This leaflet is about emergency contraception. It tells you about two methods of emergency contraception - using a tablet called Levonelle 1500 and having a coil (Intrauterine Device – IUD) fitted.

Levonelle 1500

The tablet should be taken within 72 hours of the risk of pregnancy, and is best taken as soon as possible. (In some circumstances the doctor may recommend taking Levonelle up to 5 days after the risk of pregnancy).

It will not work for any other times when you have been at risk of pregnancy.

Your next period should come around the normal time, but it may be a bit early or late. You may get occasional slight bleeding before your next period.

How effective is Levonelle 1500?

The overall chance of the emergency contraceptive pill failing to prevent pregnancy is up to 3 in 100 women. It is more effective the sooner it is taken and in the first half of the menstrual cycle. It may be much less effective in the second half of the cycle. If it does not work, it is very unlikely that the treatment would harm a pregnancy.

It will not protect you between now and your next period, so use contraception if you have sex.

It is not reliable enough to use as a regular method of contraception – we can give you information and supplies of other contraceptives.

Are there any risks?

Emergency contraception can be used several times and it has no known serious side effects.

If you are starting “the pill” or injection:

Normally you should take the first one on the first day of your next proper period - ignore any other bleeding. Use condoms for the first 7 days of the first pack.

Contraception can sometimes be started immediately after using Levonelle, rather than waiting until your next period. The Doctor or Nurse will advise you if this applies to you.

In this case:

- The pill or injection will not be reliable for the first 7 days, and you must use condoms if you have sex during this time.
- You should have a check pregnancy test after 3 weeks.

If you are already on the contraceptive pill / injection, or if you start this immediately after taking the Levonelle, then you should have a pregnancy test after 3 weeks:

(For a pregnancy test, please bring a urine sample. An early morning sample is best.)

Coil (IUD) fitting for emergency contraception

It is sometimes possible to have a coil fitted for emergency contraception. This can be done up to 5 days after intercourse, sometimes even later. The chance of an emergency coil failing to prevent pregnancy is less than 1 in 100 women. If you want to consider this, discuss it with the doctor or nurse.

How effective is it?

This method is more effective than the emergency pill. The chance of becoming pregnant after a coil fitting is less than 1 in 100 at any time in your cycle.

Because of the risk of infection, we usually advise you to have a course of antibiotics.

The coil can be left in as a permanent method of contraception, or it can be removed at your next period.

The Mirena coil (hormone coil) cannot be used for emergency contraception.

A coil has to be fitted by a properly trained doctor and this may take some time to arrange. If there is a delay in arranging an appointment for a coil fitting, the doctor or nurse may advise you to take the emergency pill now. This is in case we find that a coil is not suitable for you when we come to fit it.

Risk of sexually transmitted infection

You may also have been at risk of a sexually transmitted infection. You can arrange for screening in the Oxford or Banbury GU Medicine clinics. Tests should be done 2-3 weeks after the risk of infection or sooner if any acute symptoms develop.

How to contact us

You should contact us, Family Planning or your GP if:

- You vomit within 2 hours of taking the tablet
- Your period is late
- You have any queries or worries

For advice telephone:

01865 231231 Oxford

01295 819181 Banbury

For Contraception & Sexual Health telephone:

01865 456666 (Family Planning)

Date of last period:

Date of treatment:

You should have a pregnancy test if you have not had a normal period by:

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Further information

The following websites contain further information:

<http://www.sexualhealthoxfordshire.nhs.uk>

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/>

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

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