

Frequently Asked Questions About Depo-Provera[®]

What is Depo-Provera[®]?

Depo-Provera[®] is a hormone that keeps a woman from ovulating each month. It is as effective as Norplant[®].

Depo-Provera is given by injection in your hip or arm muscle every 84 to 90 days. It may be given right after childbirth.

How is the First Depo-Provera Injection Given?

You will need to have an annual Pap test and pelvic exam. You must have your first injection when you are having your period or if you test negative on a pregnancy test.

If you are late for the injection by 1 day or more, you will need to speak to your health care provider or nurse.

Who Should Not Receive Depo-Provera?

You should not receive Depo-Provera if you:

- think you may be pregnant
- have irregular periods that cannot be explained
- have cancer of the breast, uterus, cervix or ovaries
- have had severe side effects from previously using Depo-Provera.

What are the Side Effects?

The most common side effect is irregular or no monthly periods. Other side effects include:

- weight gain of 2 to 8 pounds over many years
- headache
- fluid retention
- mood changes.

How Much Do Injections Cost?

The cost is similar to 1 year's worth of oral contraceptives. Call your insurance provider to see if your policy covers Depo-Provera injections.

When Can You Get Pregnant After Stopping Depo-Provera Injections?

The hormone leaves the body at different rates for different women. The average is 9 months after the last shot, but may take as long as 18 months.

Does Depo-Provera Prevent Sexually Transmitted Diseases?

No. Only a latex condom will help you avoid sexually transmitted diseases such as herpes, chlamydia and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome).