

The Pill and the IUD: Birth Control through Abortion

by Robert Babecka (Technical review provided by Dr. Kathleen M. Raviele, OB/GYN.)

Both the birth control pill and the IUD (intra-uterine device) prevent births after conception has occurred. This is true about every brand of birth control pill and IUD. If you would not willingly terminate the life of an unborn child after conception these products are not for you. If you know of others using these products you should inform them of these facts.

The pill consists of synthetic hormones. There are two types of birth control pills. One contains the hormones estrogen and progestin and is referred to as the "combined pill." The other contains only progestin as the birth control agent.

The combined pill works in two ways, prevention and abortion. It prevents conception by inhibiting ovulation and by making it more difficult for the sperm to reach the egg--this is how the combined pill works most of the time. Sometimes ovulation does occur and the sperm is successful in fertilizing an egg (conception). The new life is then aborted by making the uterus unreceptive to the fertilized egg.

When the combined pill was introduced in the 1960s, medical experts estimated that abortions were responsible for between two and ten percent of prevented births.(Peel and Potts) Since then, pharmaceutical companies have reduced the concentration of estrogen in the combined pill, making it less successful at preventing ovulation. As a result, the percentage of births prevented by abortion in today's pills are higher. Today's pills are worse.

The progestin--only pill prevents birth by abortion most of the time. This pill stops the fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus wall. It only prevents conception a small percentage of the time.

The IUD is a foreign body made of plastic and inserted into the uterus. The IUD does nothing to inhibit ovulation or prevent fertilization. It functions solely to prevent the newly conceived child from implanting in the uterus.

These birth control methods rely on abortion to achieve success. Many women who would not use abortion as a means of birth control are not aware of these facts. As a pro-life individual you should actively spread the word about these birth control products.

References

John Peel and Malcolm Potts, *Textbook of Contraceptive Practice* (Cambridge University Press, 1969) p. 99.

Resources

Photographs of Information Provided with Birth Control Pills and Intra-Uterine Devices Describing How They Work

["Abortifacient Brief: The Birth Control Pill,"](#) by Brian Clowes, Ph.D.

["Abortifacient Brief: The RU-486 Abortion Pill,"](#) by Brian Clowes, Ph.D.

["Abortifacient Brief: Depo-Provera,"](#) by Brian Clowes, Ph.D.

["Abortifacient Brief: Implants,"](#) by Brian Clowes, Ph.D.

["Abortifacient Brief: The Intrauterine Device,"](#) by Brian Clowes, Ph.D.