

FACTS ABOUT DEPO-PROVERA (THE SHOT)

What is Depo-Provera?

Name	Where is shot given?	How Often?	How does it work?
Depo-Provera 150 mg	Arm or Buttock (in the muscle)	11-13 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevents release of an egg• Makes the cervical mucus thicker so sperm cannot fertilize the egg• Changes the lining of the uterus so that an implantation of a fertilized egg does not occur
Depo-subQ Provera 104	Abdomen or Upper Thigh (just under the skin)	12-14 weeks	

Depo-Provera is an injectable medicine (a shot) that prevents pregnancy for up to 3 months. It is available as Depo-Provera 150mg that is injected deep into the muscle and Depo-SubQ Provera 104 which is injected just beneath the skin. Both prevent pregnancy about 94% of the time for typical use. Once you get it, your birth control is covered for three full months—there is nothing else you have to do. If you do not get a new shot every 11 - 13 weeks (Depo-Provera 150mg) or 12-14 weeks (Depo-subQ Provera 104) you can get pregnant. When Depo-Provera is given "Quick start" - you get the first injection when you haven't had sex for two weeks (or used a condom 100% of the time) and have a negative pregnancy test. You then need to use condoms for at least 7 days after the injection for additional protection.

Things to know and do before getting a Depo-Provera shot:

- Tell your health care provider if you take any medicines or start a new medicine.
- You *can* breastfeed your baby if you take the Depo-Provera shot.
- You may be told by your healthcare provider to use a backup method of birth control, such as condoms, for a week after you get your first shot. As long as you get another shot every 3 months you do not need to use another form of birth control.
- Keep in mind the Depo-Provera shot does not protect against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Use a male or female condom to reduce the risk of infection.
- The shot does not require the consent of your partner.
- Smoking increases your risk of serious side effects. Women who use birth control methods with hormones should not smoke.

You should not take Depo-Provera if:

- You are pregnant or think you might be
- You have bleeding from your vagina and you don't know why
- You have liver disease
- You have ever had blood clots, breast cancer, heart attack or stroke

FACTS ABOUT DEPO-PROVERA SHOTS (THE SHOT)

What are the possible side effects of Depo-Provera?

- The most common side effect for women using Depo-Provera is irregular bleeding. It is more common in the first 6 to 12 months of use. You may bleed more or less than when you have your period than you did before taking the shot, or you may not have a period at all. Other side effects may include headaches, nervous feeling, nausea (feel sick to your stomach), sore breasts, change in appetite, weight gain or loss, dizziness, hair loss or increased hair on face or body.
- Depo-Provera can lower the amount of calcium stored in your bones and may weaken your bones if taken for a long time (more than 2 years). This could lead to fractures or osteoporosis later in life. However, normal bone growth returns when you stop taking the Depo-Provera shot.
- Every woman should take steps to have healthy bones. To do this, take in plenty of calcium and get plenty of exercise. Talk to your healthcare provider about calcium rich foods and supplements you can take to help prevent bone loss.
- May have irregular cycles after stopping Depo usage. Your cycle should return to normal in time.
- After using Depo-Provera even for a year, there may be a delay in getting pregnant. On average it may take up to 10 months or longer to get pregnant after your last shot. This is normal with Depo-Provera.

Are there any warning signs I need to watch for?

Serious problems are rare. Call your doctor or nurse if any of these warning signs happen to you:

- Sharp chest pain or sudden shortness of breath
- Sudden severe headache or vomiting, dizziness or fainting, problems with your eyesight or speech, weakness, or numbness in an arm or leg
- Severe pain or swelling in the lower leg
- Unusually heavy vaginal bleeding
- Severe pain or tenderness in the lower abdominal area

REMEMBER:

Depo-Provera shots do not protect you from STIs (sexually transmitted infections) or HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) you can get when you have sex. To protect yourself, use a latex or vinyl condom every time you have oral, vaginal or anal sex.

Smoking increases your risk of serious side effects. Women who use hormonal birth control methods should not smoke. This includes electronic cigarettes.