

## *Depo Provera*

Depo-Provera is the marketing name for the most widely used injectable method of birth control in the world—depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate. Depo-Provera is a long-acting, man-made hormone. It has been available in some parts of the world for 25 years or more, but was not approved in the United States until 1992.

Depo-Provera is an injection. It can work in one of three ways:

1. It can prevent ovulation (the release of an egg from the ovary);
2. It can cause the mucus in the cervix to change so that if sperm reach the cervix, it is more difficult for them to enter; and
3. It can thin the lining of the uterus so that if the first two actions fail and a new human being is created, the tiny baby boy or girl will die before he or she can actually attach to the lining of the uterus. In other words, if the third action occurs, the woman's body rejects the tiny baby and he or she will die. This is called a "chemical abortion."

***WARNING: You may be told that Depo-Provera cannot cause abortion, but that statement is based on the incorrect notion that pregnancy begins when the baby implants in the lining of the womb. This is dishonest and scientifically false. Don't be misled.***

Depo Provera is NOT safe! Some of the side effects include:

- excessive and irregular bleeding
- temporary or permanent sterility
- increased risk of cervical cancer
- increased risk of breast cancer
- headaches
- abdominal discomfort
- anxiety
- nervousness
- weight gain
- hair loss
- decreased libido (sex drive)
- loss of bone density
- mood swings
- dizziness
- fatigue
- severe mental depression
- allergic reactions causing rash or itching

***Depo Provera also offers no protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.***