

Ortho Evra

Ortho Evra is a square patch, similar to a small bandage, which is applied to the skin at various places on the body on a weekly basis. It is used for three weeks. For one week, no patch is used. A new patch is then applied each week for the next three weeks. The patch slowly releases a combination of estrogen and progestin hormones through the skin. If certain medications including antibiotics are taken, the effectiveness of the patch decreases.

Ortho Evra has three ways of working:

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 the woman does become pregnant, 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 Ortho Evra 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.

Ortho Evra is NOT safe! There are reports of deaths among women who have used the birth control patch. Lawsuits have been filed claiming users have developed blood clots and other serious health risks. The Food and Drug Administration has cautioned women that the patch carries a higher risk of blood clots than the birth control pill.

There are other possible side effects as well:

- rashes and skin irritation at site of patch
- irregular bleeding
- increased risk of breast cancer
- increased risk of cervical cancer
- fluid retention or weight gain
- problems wearing contact lenses
- high blood pressure
- nausea
- headache
- breast tenderness

- mood changes
- abdominal pain

Ortho Evra also offers no protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS