

## The help women deserve

Women deserve to be educated with the facts. Once a woman has been fully informed with the facts, only then will she be able to have full consent. Concealing or usurping this information can seriously jeopardize a woman's autonomy. The response to this could include disappointment, anger, guilt, rage, sadness, depression, or a sense of having been violated by the provider.

Women should know they have better options than a massive dose of hormones which can pose a serious risk to their health.



## You are not alone

Being faced with an unexpected pregnancy can be a stressful time for a woman. It may be a time of great loneliness when women face pressures of all kinds.

But there ARE people who will help. People who will support you through your pregnancy and after your child's birth; women who have been there before you and understand how you are feeling.

If you need help facing an unexpected pregnancy, phone Family Life International on the number below.

**WE CAN HELP.**

References:

1. S. Rossi (Editor), 2012, Australian Medicines Handbook 2012, page 718, (Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd: Adelaide).
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5. Sheldon Segal, ed., et al., "Proceedings of the Second International Conference, Intra-Uterine Contraception," October 2-3, 1964, New York City, International Series, Excerpta Medica Foundation, No. 1 (September 1965).
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7. Bayer Australia Limited, Postinor Consumer Medicines Information Leaflet (2007).
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What you should know about

# the Morning-After Pill



## What is the Morning After Pill?

It is falsely described as a form of emergency 'contraception' since it has the potential to cause an early chemically induced abortion.

The Morning After Pill (MAP) is a tablet (or two tablets) containing a very high dose of the hormone levonorgestrel—a dose 50 times stronger than standard progestogen-only birth control pills.<sup>1</sup> This massively high dose is intended to prevent conception or implantation (if conception is about to occur or has already occurred), within a few days of non-contraceptive intercourse.

## When does human life begin?

Human life begins at the moment of conception.<sup>2</sup> That is to say, the moment at which the egg and sperm meet.

From this moment, all the genetic material the child will ever require in its life is already present.

All 46 chromosomes are present at this moment—23 from mum and 23 from dad. The child's gender, eye colour, hair colour and many other things is already decided. All that is needed is time for the child to grow.

Once the egg has been fertilised (which can occur within three hours of intercourse),<sup>3</sup> the embryo must travel to the womb and implant there. It is here that the child will develop and grow until he or she is ready to be born.



## How does the Morning After Pill work?

The MAP works in several different ways. Firstly, it can act by preventing ovulation. This means an egg will not be released, and therefore no pregnancy can occur.

Secondly, it can act by thickening a woman's cervical mucus, forming a barrier to prevent sperm getting in to fertilise an egg.

Finally, it acts by disrupting the lining of the womb, meaning that a newly fertilised egg (a new human life), can't implant in the wall of the womb, and will be lost in a light bleed—a chemical abortion.<sup>4</sup>

The way the MAP works for a particular woman depends on whether or not she has already ovulated.

The maths is simple—if human life can begin within three hours of intercourse, and the MAP can be taken up to three to four days later, then this Pill has the potential to cause an abortion.

There are some who argue that the Morning After Pill does not disrupt a pregnancy that is already established. Those that hold to this position often state that life begins at implantation, which is a process taking place around one week after conception. The notion

that life begins at implantation is totally and utterly unsupported by scientific evidence.

A large part of this disagreement began in 1965, around the time contraceptive pills came on the market. At this time, many women would not take a medicine that caused an abortion. However, a director of Planned Parenthood in America, believing that people trusted the medical industry, said in 1964, "if a medical consensus develops and is maintained that pregnancy, and therefore life, begins at implantation, eventually our brethren from the other faculties will listen."<sup>5</sup>

One year later, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) changed their definition of pregnancy to say, "conception is the implantation of a fertilized ovum".<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, this definition change had widespread impact, especially in the medical field.

## Side Effects of the Morning After Pill

The Morning After Pill has many side effects. These include tiredness, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhoea, dizziness, headache, tender breasts, increased vaginal bleeding and skin reactions<sup>7</sup> (postinor CMI).

There is also an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy, which is a potentially life threatening condition for both the mother and the newly conceived child.<sup>8</sup>

