

# Withdrawal - Coitus Interruptus

Coitus interruptus or withdrawal method involves withdrawal of the entire penis from the vagina before the man ejaculates (before sperm leaves the penis). Fertilization is prevented because sperm does not contact a woman's egg. This method remains a significant means of fertility control in less advantaged countries.

## How Well Withdrawal Works

- This depends largely on the man's capability to withdraw prior to ejaculation. The failure rate is estimated to be about 4% in the first year of using this method exactly. In typical use, the rate is more like 19% during the first year of use. The failure rate means this method does not work to prevent pregnancy, and some couples using it will become pregnant anyway. The higher the failure rate, the more likely a woman is to have an unintended pregnancy.

- Of every 100 women whose partners use withdrawal, 27 will become pregnant during the first year of typical use. Of every 100 women whose partners use withdrawal, four will become pregnant during the first year of perfect use.

- Pre-ejaculate can contain enough sperm to cause pregnancy. Pregnancy is also possible if semen or pre-ejaculate is spilled on the vulva.

- Withdrawal offers no protection against sexually transmitted infections. Latex or female condoms can reduce the risk of infection.

## Advantage of Withdrawal

- This method can be used at any time, with no devices, no cost, does not involve chemicals or hormones, and may offer a lower risk for other problems. Withdrawal can be used to prevent pregnancy when no other method is available.

## Who Can Use Withdrawal

- Couples who have established great self-control, experience, and trust may use withdrawal if necessary. The men who use withdrawal must be able to know when they are reaching ejaculatory inevitability ? the point in sexual excitement when ejaculation can no longer be stopped or postponed.

## How Withdrawal is Used

- The man withdraws his penis from the vagina before or when he feels he has reached the point when ejaculation can no longer be stopped or postponed. He ejaculates outside the vagina, being careful that semen does not spill onto his partner's vulva.

## Possible Disadvantages of Withdrawal

- requires great self-control, experience, and trust
- not for men who ejaculate prematurely
- not for men who don't know when to pull out
- not recommended for sexually inexperienced men
- not recommended for teens