



# Pro-Life Bulletin Board

A project of American Life League, Inc.

P.O. Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22555 • phone: 540-659-4171 • web: [www.ALL.org](http://www.ALL.org)

## The birth control pill — How does it work?

The Catholic Church teaches that artificial contraception is wrong, not in keeping with God's plan for marriage—or, as the catechism puts it, artificial contraception is “intrinsically evil.” Some people are reluctant to accept that teaching, but a scientific examination of how most so-called contraceptives work points out the inherent evil in the pill.

There are two basic types of pills—combination pills and mini-pills. Both pills act to prevent the release of an egg from the ovary. However, “breakthrough ovulation” can occur, meaning that an egg is released from the ovary and is available to be fertilized. Both types of pills also cause the cervical mucus to thicken, making it difficult for the sperm to reach the egg. It is possible, though, for the sperm to break through the mucus and to fertilize the egg.

### If fertilization occurs ...

Both types of pills change the lining of the uterus. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the baby, five to seven days after fertilization, to attach to the lining of the uterus, where it would receive the nourishment needed to grow. If the baby does not successfully attach to the lining of the uterus, he is expelled from the body. This process is known as a chemical abortion and is why the pill is referred to as an “abortifacient.”

A few definitions are key to understanding the process:

**Fertilization:** (also known as conception) union of a sperm and egg resulting in the creation of a baby

**Implantation:** attachment of the baby (now five to seven days old) to the lining of his/her mother's uterus

**Pregnancy:** nine-month journey that begins at fertilization

For political reasons, the working definition of “pregnancy” has changed over the years from “beginning at fertilization” to “beginning at implantation.” Therefore, your doctor may tell you the birth control pill never terminates a pregnancy. But science tells us that life begins at fertilization. So if the pill prevents a developing baby from implanting in the lining of the uterus, a life has been terminated. In other words, an abortion has occurred.

### Health risks from the pill

There's also reluctance by some in the medical profession to admit that the pill is not as safe as they would have you believe. There are a number of potential complications. These are only some:

- Weight gain
- Acne
- Breast and cervical cancer
- Lowered immunity to STDs
- Inability to have children later in life (infertility)
- Baby may attach to the fallopian tube (tubal or ectopic pregnancy)

A tubal pregnancy can occur because the pill slows down movement within the fallopian tube, causing the baby to attach to the lining of the tube instead of the lining of the uterus. This is always fatal for the new baby and is usually harmful or fatal to the mother if untreated.

The birth control pill may not stop a woman from getting pregnant. In fact, it may cause an abortion. The bottom line: trust the Church's teachings when it comes to God's plan for marriage.

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## Pregnant and in need of help?

Heartbeat International: 800-395-4357