

Progesterone alone or in combination with oestrogens can be used by females as injections or implants under the skin. Such injectables and implants are functionally similar to pills and their effective period is much longer.



Figure 4.3 Implants

6. Surgical Methods:

Surgical intervention functions by blocking the transport of gametes and thereby prevent conception. They are terminal methods of contraception and are therefore also called as sterilisation. Sterilisation in males is called as vasectomy and in females is called as tubectomy

- Vasectomy: Vas deferens is tied up or removed through a small incision in the scrotum
- Tubectomy: A small part of the fallopian tube is tied up or removed through a small incision in the abdomen or the vagina.

These methods are highly effective but their reversibility is very poor.

Contraceptive methods help in checking population explosion. However, different methods of contraception may also have some side effects like nausea, abdominal pain, breakthrough bleeding, irregular menstruation, breast cancer, etc.

4.3: Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP):

Termination of pregnancy before the completion of full term intentionally or voluntarily is called medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) or induced abortion. MTP has a significant role in decreasing population though it is not meant for that purpose. The Government of India legalised MTP in 1971 with some strict provisions to prevent its misuse.

Why MTP?

- To prevent unwanted pregnancies
- In cases where continuation of pregnancy is harmful or even fatal to the mother or foetus or both.

MTPs are safe in the first trimester. However MTPs during the second trimester are riskier.

A dangerous trend is that MTPs are performed by quacks or unqualified doctors which may turn fatal for mother.

Also use of amniocentesis or other methods of pre-natal sex determination may lead to female foeticide as the preference for male child is very high.

4.4: Sexually Transmitted Diseases:

Diseases or infections of the reproductive tract which are transmitted through sexual activities and intercourse are called **sexually transmitted diseases (STD)** or **venereal diseases (VD)** or **reproductive tract infections (RTI)**. Gonorrhoea, syphilis, genital herpes, chlamydiasis, genital warts, trichomoniasis, hepatitis-B, HIV leading to AIDS are some of the common STDs. Among these, HIV infection is most dangerous.