Contraception

Contraception – something that stops pregnancy

Hormonal contraceptives include the contraceptive pill, injections, implant and skin patch. They normally contain oestrogen and/or progesterone to inhibit FSH and prevent eggs maturing

Barrier contraceptives include condoms and diaphragms. They physically prevent the sperm reaching an egg

Intrauterine devices are T-shaped device that gets inserted into the uterus. Some contain copper which kills sperm and prevents implantation of an embryo. Others can release hormones such as progesterone.

Surgery to cut or block the fallopian tubes or sperm ducts results in permanent sterilisation

Some people abstain from intercourse and around the time of ovulation – this can be unreliable.

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| Contraceptive | + | - |
| Condom | Prevents STIs | 98% effective – must be used properly |
| Combined poll |  |  |
| Implant | >99% effective | Minor surgery |
| Injection | >99% effective |  |
| Sterlilisation |  | Risk of infection from surgery |