

## Intrauterine Device (Coils)

### Information for patients

Intrauterine coils (IUC) are common and popular methods of contraception. There are two main types, copper IUDs, or hormonal coils (levonorgestrel LNG - IUD). There are a few different brands of these including Mirena® also used to control very heavy periods, the three year 'Jaydess' or 5 year Kyleena. We will help you choose the right one for you.

We recommend that you read the essential information below, and also look at the following FSRH links: [Copper Coil IUD | Contraception Choices](#) and [Hormonal Coil IUS | Contraception Choices](#)

You can look at this you tube video which is very useful, produced by NHS Lothian:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHRYE2FsXmc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHRYE2FsXmc)

#### Essential information:

1. **Pregnancy rates:** for a copper IUD this depends on the type but can be up to 2 per 100 women over 10 years. The Mirena® has a failure rate 1% over 8 years. Of these failures, there is a slightly increased proportion of ectopic pregnancies. Jaydess is less than 1% at 3 years.
2. **Bleeding patterns:** With a copper IUD periods may be a little heavier and more painful. With the hormonal coils (LNG IUD) after a 'settling in' time of up to six months your periods should become much lighter and more infrequent and may stop altogether. A tiny amount of hormone is released into your body; which rarely causes side effects.
3. **Prior to the procedure:**
  - a. **Painkillers:** Although fitting is usually straightforward, you are advised to take pain killers 1 hour prior to your appointment: preferably 2x200mg ibuprofen, or, if unable to take this, 2x500mg paracetamol tablets. The doctor may use a local anaesthetic on your cervix.
  - b. **Reliable contraception:** Prior to the appointment if you are having a new device you are advised not to have had sex since your period, or to be on another reliable hormonal method of contraception. You may need a pregnancy test. If you are having a refit of a device we recommend you use condoms for 7 days prior to the procedure.
4. **Complications of IUCs:** These are not common but you do need to be aware.
  - Infection can occur, usually in the first three weeks of use. This would normally present with pain, bleeding or discharge. It can usually be treated with antibiotics but occasionally the IUC may need removal. Chlamydia/gonorrhoea tests are offered routinely prior to fitting.
  - Expulsion: IUCs occasionally fall out; it is wise to check your threads if you can.
  - Perforation of the womb can occur; up to 2 in 1000 fittings, higher if breast feeding.
5. **Length of use:** IUCs are licenced for 3-10 years use, depending on type used. Licensed and accepted practice as per FSRH Guidance is Mirena = 8 years (5 years if used for HRT); Kyleena = 5 years; Jaydess = 3 years. If Mirena is fitted at 45 years of age or above, the contraceptive effect lasts until age 55.
6. **After the procedure:** it is not uncommon to feel faint during and after the procedure, so we may ask you to wait for a short period of observation. Extra contraception may be required after for a limited time. It is advisable to not use tampons for two weeks after fitting. Please bring a sanitary pad with you in case of light bleeding/spotting.

## Consent form for IUC procedures

### Patient Details

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Procedure \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of Health professional

I have explained the procedure to the patient. In particular I have explained the use of the copper IUD/LNG IUD as a contraceptive and/or in the management of heavy periods/use in HRT.

I have discussed the procedure and its complications, in particular the timing of fit, pain, expulsion of device, side effects, infections, pregnancy rates, ectopics, perforation of womb, bleeding patterns and length of use.

I have provided the patient with an information leaflet.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of patient/carers

**I agree** to the procedure described above and have read the information provided.

I am aware **that this can be used for** ☐ 3 years  
☐ 5 years  
☐ 8 years  
☐ 10 years

I am aware it is **my responsibility** to have it removed/replaced at this time.

**I understand** that the procedure may involve local anaesthesia.

Signature of patient \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_