



# Emergency contraception: Levonorgestrel

**This leaflet gives advice on taking the emergency contraceptive Levonorgestrel, and any risks and side effects involved.**

## Important information about Levonorgestrel

- Levonorgestrel can be taken up to 96 hours (4 days) after unprotected sex.
- It will not work for any other unprotected sex you had more than 4 days ago.
- It will also not protect you for any unprotected sex you have from now until your next period.
- Around 2 in every 100 women will get pregnant **even after taking Levonorgestrel**. If this happens, there is no evidence that the pregnancy will be harmed.
- There are no known serious side effects of Levonorgestrel.
- You may need a double dose (2 tablets) of Levonorgestrel if you weigh over 70kg (11st 0.35lb) or if you are on certain medication.

## Starting contraception after taking Levonorgestrel

- Start your pills on the same day after taking Levonorgestrel.
- Use condoms for \_\_\_\_\_ days after starting the pill.
- Do a pregnancy test on \_\_\_\_\_.

## Contact us or GP if:

- You vomit within 3 hours of taking Levonorgestrel.
- You have further unprotected sex
- Your pregnancy test is positive.



## Contact details

Florey Clinic, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, 21a Craven Road, Reading RG1 5LE

Tel: 0118 322 7202

<https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/sexual-health>

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

RBFT Florey Clinic, April 2026

Next review due: April 2028