

SCHEDULING STATUS 	
1. NAME OF THE MEDICINE AVIBELA Levonorgestrel 52 mg intrauterine delivery system	
2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION The active substance is levonorgestrel. Each sterile levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system contains 52 mg of levonorgestrel. The initial release of levonorgestrel is approximately 20 micrograms per day. This rate decreases progressively to approximately 6.6 micrograms/day after 6 years. The average in vivo release rate of levonorgestrel is approximately 14.3 micrograms/day over a period of 6 years. Sugar free. For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.	
3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM Intrauterine delivery system (IUD) consisting of a white reservoir covered with a membrane on the vertical stem of a T-frame; a double blue thread is attached to the upper end of the T-frame; the reservoir and the frame are placed in the inserter tube. The IUD and single-handed inserter are packaged in a thermomolded tray with a lid. 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS 4.1 Therapeutic indications Contraception. Treatment of heavy menstrual bleeding. AVIBELA may be particularly useful in women with heavy menstrual bleeding requiring (reversible) contraception. 4.2 Posology and method of administration Posology One unit is inserted into the uterine cavity. AVIBELA is effective for six years in the indications for contraception and heavy menstrual bleeding. Therefore, it should be removed after 6 years of use. If the user wishes to continue using the same method at the same time, if pregnancy is not desired, AVIBELA can be removed at any time; however, a contraception method should be started prior to removal of AVIBELA. Counsel your patient that she is at risk of pregnancy if she has intercourse in the week prior to removal without use of a backup contraceptive method. Removal may be associated with some pain and/or bleeding or vasovagal reactions (e.g. syncope, bradycardia, or seizure), especially in patients with a predisposition to these conditions. Starting Treatment In women of fertile age, AVIBELA is inserted into the uterine cavity within seven days of the onset of menstruation. It can be replaced by a new system at any time of the cycle. AVIBELA can also be inserted immediately after a first trimester abortion. If AVIBELA is not inserted during the first 7 days of the menstrual cycle and if the provider can be reasonably certain the woman is not pregnant, abstinance or a barrier method of contraception (such as condoms and spermicide) should be used for 7 days to prevent pregnancy. Post-partum insertion: To reduce the risk of perforation, postpartum insertions should be postponed until the uterus is fully involuted. Do not insert earlier than six weeks after delivery. If the patient is experiencing significant post-partum bleeding and/or pain then infection or other causes should be excluded before insertion. Timing of insertion Refer to Table 1 for instructions on when to start use of AVIBELA. Table 1: When to insert AVIBELA	
Starting AVIBELA in women not currently using hormonal or intrauterine contraception	- AVIBELA can be inserted any time the provider can be reasonably certain the woman is not pregnant. Consider the possibility of ovulation and conception prior to initiation of this method. - If AVIBELA is inserted earlier than the first 7 days of the menstrual cycle, the patient should be advised to use a barrier method of contraception (such as condoms and spermicide) or abstain from vaginal intercourse for 7 days after insertion to prevent pregnancy.
Switching to AVIBELA from an oral, transdermal or vaginal hormonal contraceptive	- AVIBELA may be inserted at any time. - may be inserted during the hormone-free interval of the previous method - if inserted during active use of the previous method, continue that method for seven days after AVIBELA insertion or until the end of the current treatment cycle. - If using continuous hormonal contraception, discontinue that method seven days before AVIBELA insertion.
Switching to AVIBELA from an injectable progestin contraceptive	- AVIBELA may be inserted at any time. - if AVIBELA is inserted more than 3 months (13 weeks) after the last injection, a barrier method of contraception (such as condoms and spermicide) should also be used for 7 days after insertion.
Switching to AVIBELA from a contraceptive implant or another IUD	- insert AVIBELA on the same day the implant or IUD is removed - AVIBELA may be inserted at any time during the menstrual cycle.
Inserting AVIBELA after abortion or miscarriage	First-trimester - AVIBELA may be inserted immediately after a first-trimester abortion or miscarriage. Second-trimester - do not insert AVIBELA until a minimum of 4 weeks after second-trimester abortion or miscarriage, or until the uterus is fully involuted. If involution is delayed, wait until involution is complete before insertion. - If the woman has not yet had a period, consider the possibility of ovulation and conception occurring prior to insertion of AVIBELA. AVIBELA can be inserted any time the provider can be reasonably certain the woman is not pregnant. - if AVIBELA is not inserted during the first 7 days of the menstrual cycle, a barrier method of contraception should be used or the patient should abstain from vaginal intercourse for 7 days after insertion to prevent pregnancy.
Inserting AVIBELA after childbirth	- do not insert AVIBELA until a minimum of 4 weeks after delivery, or until the uterus is fully involuted. If involution is delayed, wait until involution is complete before insertion. - if the woman has not yet had a period, consider the possibility of ovulation and conception occurring prior to insertion of AVIBELA. AVIBELA can be inserted any time the provider can be reasonably certain the woman is not pregnant. - if AVIBELA is not inserted during the first 7 days of the menstrual cycle, a barrier method of contraception should be used or the patient should abstain from vaginal intercourse for 7 days after insertion to prevent pregnancy. - there appears to be an increased risk of perforation in lactating women.

Pediatric population
AVIBELA has not been studied in patients below 18 years of age. AVIBELA is not indicated for use before menarche.

Special populations
Elderly
AVIBELA has not been studied in elderly women.

Hepatic impairment
AVIBELA is contraindicated in patients with liver tumour or acute or severe liver disease (see section 4.3). AVIBELA has not been studied in women with hepatic impairment.

Method of administration
Instructions for use and handling
AVIBELA is supplied in a tray, sealed with a peel-off lid and is inserted into the uterine cavity with the provided inserter (Figure 1b) by carefully following the insertion instructions. Do not use the seal of the sterile package or appars compromised. Use strict aseptic techniques throughout the insertion procedure (see section 4.4 - Pevic infection). AVIBELA is for single use only.

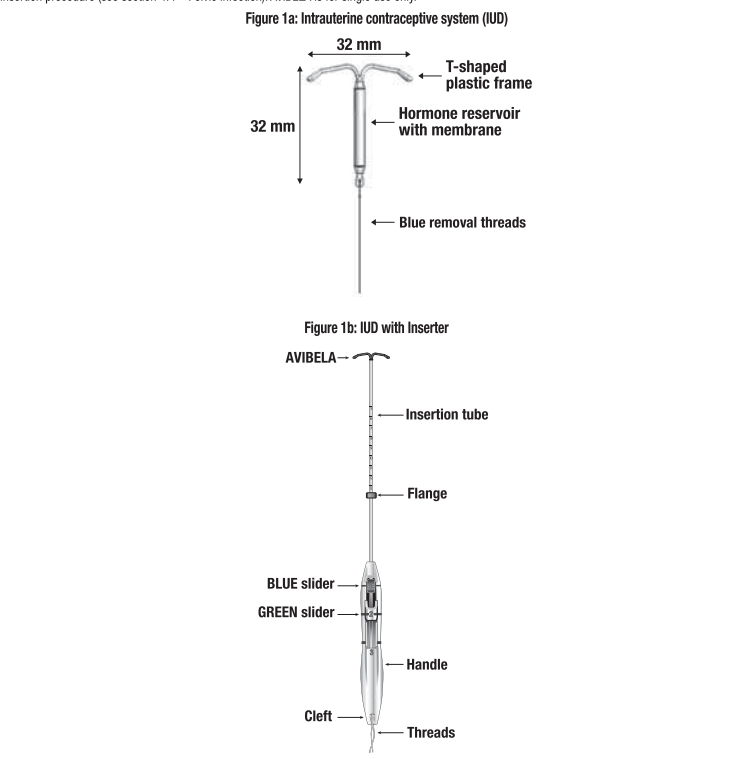
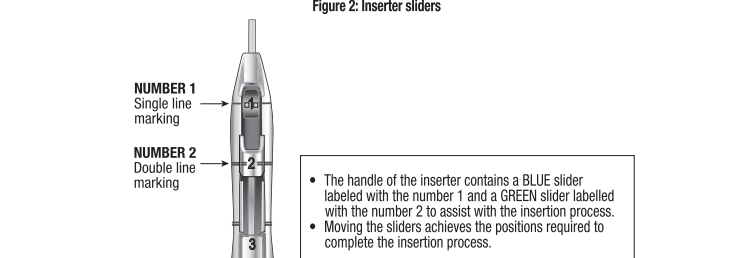


Figure 1a: Intrauterine delivery system (IUD)



The handle of the inserter contains a BLUE slider labelled with the number 1 and a GREEN slider labelled with the number 2. The handle is labelled with the number 3. The sliders are labelled with the numbers 1 and 2, and the handle is labelled with the number 3 to assist with the insertion process. (Figure 2). Moving the sliders achieves the positions required to complete the insertion process.

Figure 2: Inserter sliders

NUMBER 1 Single line marking
NUMBER 2 Double line marking

- The handle of the inserter contains a BLUE slider labelled with the number 1 and a GREEN slider labelled with the number 2 to assist with the insertion process.
- Moving the sliders achieves the positions required to complete the insertion process.

How to insert AVIBELA
AVIBELA should only be inserted by a trained healthcare provider. Healthcare providers should become thoroughly familiar with the product, product educational materials, product insertion instructions, prescribing information, and patient labelling before attempting insertion.

• obtain a complete medical and social history to determine conditions that might influence the selection of a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system for contraception. If indicated, perform a physical examination and appropriate tests for genital or sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

• check the expiration date on the box before opening it. Do not insert after the expiration date.

• visually inspect the packaging containing AVIBELA to verify that the packaging has not been damaged (e.g. torn, punctured, etc.). If the packaging has any visual damage that could compromise sterility, do not use the unit for insertion.

• complete the pelvic examination, speculum placement, transvaginal ultrasound, and sounding of the uterus before opening the pouch.

• do not open the packaging to insert AVIBELA if the cervix is unable to be properly visualised, if the uterus cannot be adequately instrumented during sounding, or if the uterus sounds to be less than 5.5 cm.

• in case of difficult insertion and/or exceptional pain or bleeding during insertion, please refer to section 4.4.

• AVIBELA is supplied in a sterile package sealed with ethylene oxide. Do not resterilise. For single use only. Do not use if the inner package is damaged or open, insert before the end of the month shown on the label.

• Moving the sliders achieves the positions required to complete the insertion process.

The following insertion instructions will be provided in the box containing the IUD.

Please read the following instructions for use carefully as there may be some difference in the type of inserter device compared with other IUDs you have used previously.

Planning for insertion

- Ensure all needed items for AVIBELA insertion are readily available:
 - gloves
 - sterile speculum
 - sterile forceps
 - sterile uterine sound
 - sterile tenaculum
 - antiseptic solution
 - AVIBELA with inserter tray, sealed with a peel-off lid
 - sterile, blunt-tipped scissors
 - additional items that may be useful could include:
 - local anaesthesia, needles, and syringes
 - sterile air finder and/or cervical dilators
 - ultrasound with abdominal probe
- exclude pregnancy and confirm that there are no other contraindications to the insertion and use of AVIBELA
- follow the insertion instructions exactly as described in order to ensure proper insertion
- if you encounter cervical stenosis at any time during uterine sounding or AVIBELA insertion, use cervical dilators, not force, to overcome resistance. If necessary, dilation, sounding, and insertion may be performed with ultrasound guidance
- insertion may be associated with some pain and/or bleeding or vasovagal reactions (e.g. dizziness, syncope, bradycardia, or seizure), especially in patients with a predisposition to these conditions. Consider administering analgesics prior to insertion

Use aseptic technique during the entire insertion procedure. Loading and inserting AVIBELA does not require sterile gloves. If not using sterile gloves, maintain sterility during AVIBELA loading and insertion; do not touch AVIBELA, the inside of the sterile tray, or parts of any sterile instrument that will pierce tissue (e.g. a tenaculum or the cervix) or into the uterine cavity. If, at any step, there is a need to touch a sterile surface, sterile gloves should be used.

Preparation for insertion
The vaginal insertion process is conducted in 5 steps.
Step 1 - Preparation of patient for insertion

- With the patient comfortably in lithotomy position, do a bimanual exam to establish the size, shape, and position of the uterus and to evaluate any signs of uterine infection
- gently insert a speculum to visualise the cervix
- thoroughly cleanse the cervix and vagina with antiseptic solution
- administer cervical anaesthesia, if needed
- apply a tenaculum to the cervix and use gentle traction to align the cervical canal with the uterine cavity. Keep the tenaculum in position and maintain gentle traction on the cervix throughout the insertion procedure
- carefully sound the uterus to measure its depth
- the uterus should sound to a depth of at least 5.5 cm. Insertion of AVIBELA into a uterine cavity that sounds to less than 5.5 cm may increase the incidence of expulsion, bleeding, pain, perforation, and possibly pregnancy. AVIBELA should not be inserted if the uterus sounds to be less than 5.5 cm after ascertaining that the patient is appropriate for insertion.

IMPORTANT!
In case of difficult insertion and/or exceptional pain or bleeding during or after insertion, physical examination and ultrasound should be performed immediately to exclude perforation of the uterine body or cervix. If necessary, remove the system and insert a new, sterile system.

Please report any case of uterine perforation or insertion difficulties via the national reporting system or to the supplier.

Insertion procedure
Step 2 - Opening the sterile AVIBELA packaging

- remove the sealed tray containing AVIBELA from the box
- inspect the sealed tray and do not use if the packaging, inserter or IUD is damaged
- lay the tray on a flat surface with the peel-off lid side up
- remove peel-off lid.

Step 3 - Loading AVIBELA into inserter

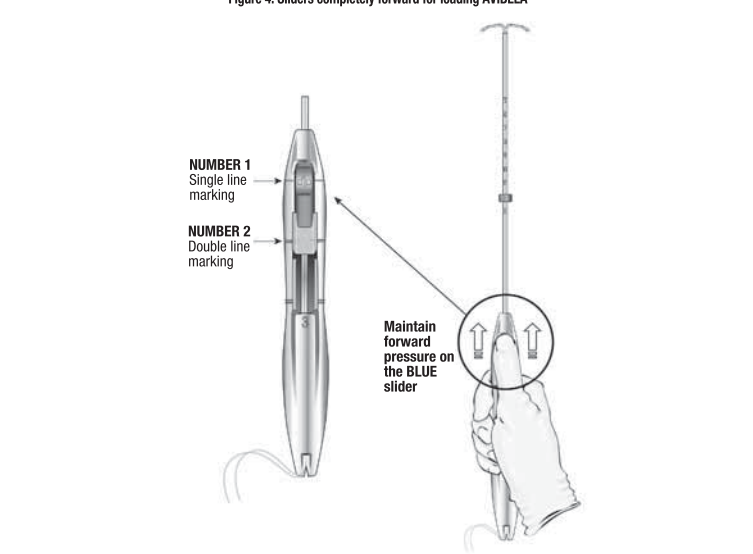
- to remove the inserter from the tray, grasp the handle below the sliders and twist gently (Figure 3)
- NOTE: Do not attempt to remove the inserter by pulling on the tube.



Figure 3: Removing inserter from tray

ensure both sliders (labelled 1 and 2) are fully forward (Figure 4):

- the BLUE slider (labelled with the number 1) has a single line marking that will align with the handle's single line marking
- the GREEN slider (labelled with the number 2) has a double line marking that will align with the handle's double line marking
- grip the handle keeping your thumb or finger in the groove of the BLUE slider (over the number 1) and apply forward pressure while ensuring both sliders are fully forward



load AVIBELA into the inserter:

- ensure the arms of the IUD are horizontal (aligned to the horizontal plane of the handle and flange); adjust the rotation of the IUD as needed using the flat sterile surface of the tray
- while maintaining forward pressure on the BLUE slider, gently pull the threads straight back to load AVIBELA into the inserter tube. Ensure even tension is applied to both threads when pulling
- pull the threads upward or downward to load the threads into the cleft at the bottom end of the handle (Figure 5); you must lock the threads in the cleft to prevent the IUD from moving out of the top of the inserter tube. Once the threads are locked in the cleft, stop holding the threads
- after the IUD is loaded, continue to sustain forward pressure on the BLUE slider to maintain a hemispherical dome with the tips of the IUD
- when correctly loaded, the IUD is completely within the inserter tube with the tips of the arms forming a hemispherical dome at the top of the tube (Figure 6)
- if the IUD is not correctly loaded, do not attempt insertion
- to re-load AVIBELA:
 - pull the BLUE slider back with your thumb until the groove becomes aligned with the GREEN slider to release the IUD
 - manually pull the threads out of the cleft
 - return the BLUE slider to the forward position and repeat the loading steps.

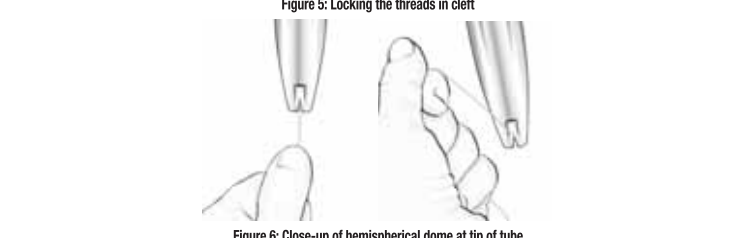


Figure 6: Close-up of hemispherical dome at tip of tube

Figure 7: Adjusting the flange

Tray notch

Figure 8: Advancing insertion tube until flange is 1.5 - 2 cm from the external cervix

Figure 9: Releasing and Opening the Arms of the IUD

Figure 7: Adjusting the flange

- adjust the flange to the measured uterine depth based on sounding. To adjust, place the flat side of the flange in the tray notch (Figure 7) or against a sterile edge inside of the tray. Slide the inserter tube as necessary to move the flange to the correct measurement. Ensure the flat side of the flange are in the same horizontal plane as the handle. If, at any step, there is a need to touch a sterile surface or another sterile surface, sterile gloves should be used

Figure 8: Advancing insertion tube until flange is 1.5 - 2 cm from the external cervix

- if an adjustment to the curvature of the insertion tube is required to accommodate the anatomical orientation of the uterus, you may bend or straighten the insertion tube, but do not touch above the flange unless using sterile gloves. When bending the tube, avoid sharp bends to prevent kinking
- once the flange has been properly positioned, avoid contact with flange against objects that can change its position (e.g. tray, speculum, tenaculum, etc.).

Step 4 - Inserting AVIBELA into the uterus
apply gentle traction on the tenaculum and continue to apply forward pressure on the BLUE slider while inserting the IUD into the inserter tube through the cervical os. Advance the tube until the upper edge of the flange is 1.5 - 2 cm from the external cervix (Figure 8). Maintain forward pressure on the BLUE slider throughout the insertion process.

- DO NOT advance flange to the cervix at this time
- DO NOT force the inserter. If necessary, dislodge the cervical canal.

Figure 9: Releasing and Opening the Arms of the IUD

- if an adjustment to the curvature of the insertion tube is required to accommodate the anatomical orientation of the uterus, you may bend or straighten the insertion tube, but do not touch above the flange unless using sterile gloves. When bending the tube, avoid sharp bends to prevent kinking
- once the flange has been properly positioned, avoid contact with flange against objects that can change its position (e.g. tray, speculum, tenaculum, etc.).

Figure 10: Move AVIBELA into the fundal position

Figure 11: Releasing AVIBELA from the inserter tube

Figure 12: Green indicator visible and threads released from cleft

Figure 10: Move AVIBELA into the fundal position

- using your thumb or finger, gently slide only the BLUE slider down. You will feel slight resistance initially to move the BLUE slider out of its starting position. Continue to move the BLUE slider down until you feel slight resistance again as the BLUE and GREEN sliders will merge together to form a joint slider recess. Do not move the BLUE slider any more than is necessary to create the recess. Maintain the GREEN slider so that the double line markings on the slider and the inserter handle remain aligned (Figure 8). This will allow the IUD arms to open in the lower uterine segment. Do not pull the sliders back any further as this could result in premature release of the IUD at the incorrect location

Figure 11: Releasing AVIBELA from the inserter tube

- Move BLUE slider down
- Joint slider recess
- GREEN slider should not move

Figure 12: Green indicator visible and threads released from cleft

- wait 10 - 15 seconds to allow for the arms of the IUD to fully open
- without moving the sliders, advance the inserter until the flange touches the cervix. If fundal resistance is encountered, do not continue to advance. AVIBELA is now in the fundal position (Figure 10)
- note: fundal position is important to prevent expulsions.

Figure 13: Cut the threads about 3 cm from the cervix

Figure 14: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 15: Withdrawal of AVIBELA

Figure 16: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 17: Removal of AVIBELA

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Figure 302: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 303: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 304: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 305: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 306: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 307: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 308: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 309: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 310: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 311: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 312: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 313: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 314: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 315: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 316: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 317: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 318: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 319: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 320: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 321: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 322: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 323: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 324: Removal of AVIBELA

Figure 325: Removal of AVIBELA

SCHEDULING STATUS [54]

AVBELA 20 micrograms/24 hours intrauterine delivery system Levonorgestrel Sugar free
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AVBELA does not protect against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection or acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted disease (STDs).

Read all of this leaflet carefully before AVBELA is inserted

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- You have further questions, please ask your doctor or your pharmacist. This information does not take the place of talking with your gynaecologist or other healthcare provider who specializes in women's health.
- You should also learn about other birth control methods to choose the one that is best for you.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your healthcare provider. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

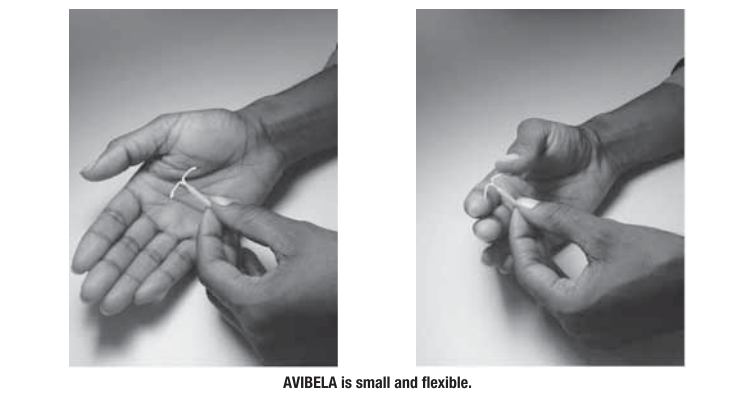
- What AVBELA is and what it is used for
- What you need to know before AVBELA is inserted
- How AVBELA is inserted
- Possible side effects
- How to store AVBELA
- Contents of the pack and other information

1. What AVBELA is and what it is used for

- AVBELA contains levonorgestrel and is a hormone-releasing system placed in your uterus by your healthcare provider to prevent pregnancy for up to 6 years
- AVBELA can also be used to treat heavy menstrual bleeding (heavy periods)
- AVBELA contains 52 mg of levonorgestrel, which is released slowly over 6 years
- AVBELA can be removed by your healthcare provider at any time
- AVBELA can be used whether or not you have given birth to a child.

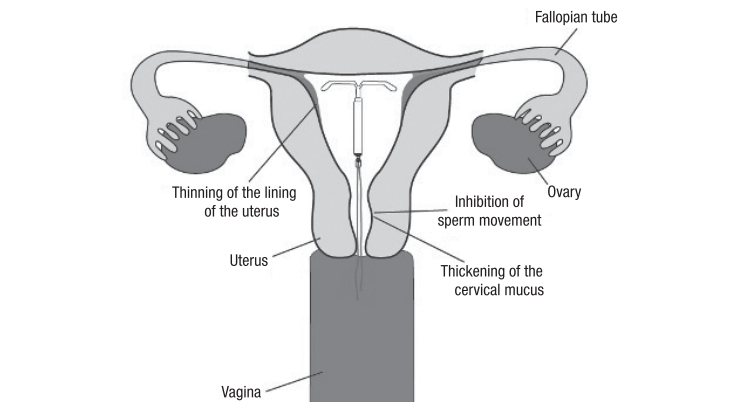
AVBELA is a small, flexible plastic T-shaped system that slowly releases a progestin hormone called levonorgestrel that is often used in birth control pills. Because AVBELA releases levonorgestrel into your uterus, only small amounts of the hormone enter your blood. AVBELA does not contain estrogen.

Two thin threads are attached to the stem (lower end) of AVBELA. The threads are the only part of AVBELA you can feel when AVBELA is in your uterus; however, unlike a tampon string, the threads do not extend outside your body.



How does AVBELA work for birth control?

AVBELA may work for birth control in several ways including thickening of cervical mucus, inhibiting sperm movement, reducing sperm survival, and thinning the lining of your uterus. It is not known exactly how these actions work together to prevent pregnancy.



There are also risks if you get pregnant while using AVBELA and the pregnancy is in the uterus. Severe infection, miscarriage, premature labour, premature delivery, and even death can occur with pregnancies that continue with an intrauterine device (IUD). Because of this, your healthcare provider may try to remove AVBELA, even though removing it may cause a miscarriage. AVBELA cannot be removed, talk with your healthcare provider about the benefits and risks of continuing the pregnancy.

If you continue the pregnancy, see your healthcare provider regularly. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have flu-like symptoms, fever, chills, cramping, pain, bleeding, vaginal discharge, or fluid leaking from your vagina. These may be signs of infection.

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- 2. What you need to know before AVBELA is inserted**
- You are hypersensitive (allergic) to levonorgestrel or any of the other ingredients of AVBELA (see section 6)
- You are pregnant or suspect you are pregnant
- You have an infection of your genitals
- You have an infection of your female reproductive organs called pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) or you have any sexually transmitted disease (STDs) including the clap (bacterial infection also called gonorrhoea)
- You have a painful disorder of the female reproductive organs called endometriosis, where the tissue which normally lines your uterus, grows outside your uterus, after giving birth
- If you had an abortion, in the last three months, which was infected
- You have inflammation of the cervix (the lower narrow end of the uterus that opens into the vagina) which includes symptoms like bleeding between menstrual periods, pain during sex or any abnormal vaginal discharge
- You have inflammation of the vagina, which includes symptoms like discharge, itching and pain in the vaginal area
- You have abnormal growth of cells on the surface of your cervix or type of cervical cancer called neoplasm (as diagnosed by your doctor)
- You have cancer of the uterus (womb)



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- If you have a certain type of cancer which are hormone-sensitive, including breast cancer
- If you have abnormal bleeding from your womb, which have not been diagnosed
- If you have any abnormality of the uterus (womb) which can affect the insertion and/or holding of the intra-uterine device (IUD)
- If you have severe liver disease or liver cancer
- If you have another IUD which has not been removed
- If you have an illness that increases your likelihood to get infections
- If you have acute blood clots, like leukaemia, unless you are in remission
- If you had recent abnormal cell growth in tissue that forms the in the uterus (womb), while pregnancy hormone levels remain high.

Warnings and precautions

Tell your doctor or healthcare professional before insertion of the IUD if you:

- had a heart attack
- had a stroke
- were born with heart disease or have problems with your heart valves
- have problems with blood clotting or take medicine to reduce clotting
- have high blood pressure
- recently had a baby or if you are breastfeeding
- have severe migraine headaches or partial loss of vision associated with migraine headaches
- have severe or frequent headaches
- have AIDS, HIV or any other sexually transmitted infection.

Special care should be taken with AVBELA:

- If you develop blood clots with symptoms including pain in one leg and/or swelling, sudden severe pain in the chest which may extend to the left arm, sudden breathlessness, sudden onset of coughing, any unusual, severe, long-lasting headache, sudden partial or complete loss of eye sight, double-vision, slurred speech or struggling to communicate, sensation that the environment is moving or spinning, collapse with or without a fit, weakness or marked numbness suddenly affecting one side of or one part of the body, involuntary or uncontrollable movements or actions of the body, severe pain in abdomen caused by a condition called 'acute' abdomen
- If you develop blood clots in your eyes with symptoms like unexplained partial or complete loss of eyesight, bulging eyes or double vision, swelling of your optic nerve which may affect your vision or sudden change in eyesight due to a condition called retinal vascular lesions
- If you have been born with heart disease or have problems with your heart valves
- You may feel like fainting or experience lower than normal heart rate when the IUD is being inserted
- If you suffer from diabetes, your blood glucose levels should be monitored as AVBELA may affect your glucose tolerance
- If you experience abnormalchanges in your period bleeding pattern, like spotting, irregular bleeding, heavy bleeding, frequent menstrual periods, or absence of menstrual period. During the first 3 - 6 months of AVBELA use, you may experience more than normal bleeding or spotting days and abnormal bleeding patterns may develop. Thereafter, the number of bleeding and spotting days may be less, but bleeding may still be irregular
- If you experience a heavier menstrual flow or unexplained bleeding, especially if you experience more cramping, it may indicate that AVBELA has come out and you should be evaluated by your doctor
- If you develop lower abdominal pain or pain in your pelvis, fever, chills, unusual and smelly vaginal discharge, unexplained bleeding, sores on your genitals or experience pain during sex, notify your doctor immediately. You may have developed a condition called pelvic inflammatory disease
- If you had multiple sexual partners or your partner had multiple sex partners, you may be at risk to develop a sexually transmitted disease (STD). AVBELA does not protect against STDs, and you may have a higher risk to develop the condition called pelvic inflammatory disease or inflammation of the womb. You may also have a higher risk to develop these conditions again, if you previously had any of these. Also, if you have blood cancer, AIDS or using illegal substances via injection, you may also have a higher risk to develop these conditions. These conditions may also be without any symptoms but can cause damage to your female reproductive organs
- If you develop a bacterial infection called actinomycosis. Symptoms include hard lump in the jaw that is not usually painful, muscle spasms or "locked jaw", draining sores in the skin, fever, mild or no pain, swelling or a hard, red to reddish-purple lump on the face or upper neck and weight loss
- AVBELA may be expelled (come out) partially or completely, and may no longer be effective as birth control
- AVBELA may perforate (pierce) your womb wall or cervix, mostly during insertion. If you experience severe pain and continued bleeding after insertion, please contact your doctor immediately, as delay in removal of AVBELA may result in moving of the IUD outside your womb, adhesions (bands of scar like tissue), inflammation of the intestines, piercing/perforation of intestines, blockages in intestines, abscesses, and damage to the internal organs of the body
- If you have lower abdominal pain, in connection with missed periods or if your period starts and you did not have any periods while AVBELA was inserted, you may have developed a pregnancy outside of your womb. You should contact your doctor immediately. This may affect your fertility
- You may develop cysts on your ovaries; however, they usually disappear in 2 - 3 months. Symptoms of ovarian cysts include pain in your pelvis, abdominal pain, and painful sex
- If you have breast cancer you should not use any form of hormonal birth-control, as some of the breast cancers are sensitive to these hormones.
- If you are a woman in menopause
- If you have a pigmentation disorder of the skin, called chloasma, in which large brown patches form on the skin. Avoid exposure to the sun or ultraviolet light.

Children and adolescents

AVBELA should not be used before the first occurrence of menstruation and children below the age of 16 years.

Other medicines and AVBELA

Always tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any other medicine. (This includes complementary or traditional medicines)

- If you take any medicine which has an effect on the liver enzymes i.e.
 - primidone (used to treat seizures and shakiness)
 - barbiturates (e.g. phenobarbitone (used to treat sleep disorders, anxiety, migraine)
 - phenytoin, carbamazepine, felbamate (used to treat epilepsy)
 - rifampicin (used to treat tuberculosis)
 - topiramate (used to treat epilepsy and migraines)
 - griseofulvin (used to treat fungal infections of nails, scalp, and skin)
 - ritonavir (used to prevent bacterial infections in patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection)
 - nevirapine (used to treat HIV infection)
 - efavirenz (used to treat HIV infection)
 - products containing St. John's wort.

Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility

AVBELA should not be inserted if you are or suspect you are pregnant. If you suspect you are pregnant or breastfeeding your baby, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional for advice before AVBELA is inserted. If possible, also do a urine pregnancy test. If you get pregnant while using AVBELA, you may have an ectopic pregnancy. This means that the pregnancy is not in the uterus. Unusual vaginal bleeding or abdominal pain especially with missed periods may be a sign of ectopic pregnancy.

Ectopic pregnancy is a medical emergency that often requires surgery. Ectopic pregnancy can cause internal bleeding, infertility, and even death.

There are also risks if you get pregnant while using AVBELA and the pregnancy is in the uterus. Severe infection, miscarriage, premature labour, premature delivery, and even death can occur with pregnancies that continue with an intrauterine device (IUD). Because of this, your healthcare provider may try to remove AVBELA, even though removing it may cause a miscarriage. AVBELA cannot be removed, talk with your healthcare provider about the benefits and risks of continuing the pregnancy.

If you continue the pregnancy, see your healthcare provider regularly. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have flu-like symptoms, fever, chills, cramping, pain, bleeding, vaginal discharge, or fluid leaking from your vagina. These may be signs of infection.

It is not known if AVBELA can cause long-term effects on the foetus if it stays in place during a pregnancy.

Your healthcare provider can remove AVBELA at any time. You could become pregnant as soon as AVBELA is removed. About 6 of 7 women who want to become pregnant will become pregnant sometime in the first year after AVBELA is removed.

You may use AVBELA when you are breastfeeding if more than 6 weeks have passed since you had your baby. If you are breastfeeding, AVBELA is not likely to affect the quality or amount of your breast milk or the health of your nursing baby.

However, isolated cases of decreased milk production have been reported among women using progestin-only birth control pills. You may have a higher risk that AVBELA may attach to (embed) or go through the walls of the womb (uterus) if you are breastfeeding. If you want to breastfeed your baby, you should ask a healthcare provider for advice on the risks and benefits while using AVBELA.

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If you continue the pregnancy, see your healthcare provider regularly. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have flu-like symptoms, fever, chills, cramping, pain, bleeding, vaginal discharge, or fluid leaking from your vagina. These may be signs of infection.

There are also risks if you get pregnant while using AVBELA and the pregnancy is in the uterus. Severe infection, miscarriage, premature labour, premature delivery, and even death can occur with pregnancies that continue with an intrauterine device (IUD). Because of this, your healthcare provider may try to remove AVBELA, even though removing it may cause a miscarriage. AVBELA cannot be removed, talk with your healthcare provider about the benefits and risks of continuing the pregnancy.

If you continue the pregnancy, see your healthcare provider regularly. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have flu-like symptoms, fever, chills, cramping, pain, bleeding, vaginal discharge, or fluid leaking from your vagina. These may be signs of infection.

Using and using machines

It is not always possible to predict to what extent AVBELA may interfere with your daily activities. There are no known effects on the ability to drive or use machines.

3. How AVBELA is inserted

AVBELA is inserted by your healthcare provider.

First, your healthcare provider will examine your pelvis to find the exact position of your uterus. Your healthcare provider will then clean your vagina and cervix with an antiseptic solution and slide a plastic tube containing AVBELA through the cervix into your uterus. Your healthcare provider will then remove the plastic tube and leave AVBELA in your uterus. Your healthcare provider will trim the threads to the right length.

You may experience pain, bleeding, or dizziness during and after placement. If your symptoms do not pass within 30 minutes after placement, AVBELA may not have been placed correctly. Your healthcare provider will examine you to see if AVBELA needs to be removed or replaced.

How soon after placement of AVBELA should I return to my healthcare provider?

Call your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns. Otherwise, you should return to your healthcare provider for a follow-up visit 4 - 6 weeks after AVBELA is placed to make sure that AVBELA is in the right position.

After AVBELA has been placed, when should I call my healthcare provider?

Call your healthcare provider if you have any concerns about AVBELA. Be sure to call if you:

- think you are pregnant
- have pelvic pain or pain during sex
- have unusual vaginal discharge or genital sores
- have unexplained fever, flu-like symptoms, or chills
- might have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- are concerned that AVBELA may have been expelled (came out)
- cannot feel AVBELA's threads
- develop very severe or migraine headaches
- have yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes (these may be signs of liver problems)
- had a stroke or heart attack
- or your partner(s) become(s) HIV positive
- develop blood cancer (leukaemia)
- have severe vaginal bleeding, bleeding that lasts a long time, or you miss your period.

Should I check that AVBELA is in place?

Yes, you should check that AVBELA is in proper position by feeling the threads. It is a good habit to do this every month. Your healthcare provider should teach you how to check that AVBELA is in place. First, wash your hands with soap and water. You can check by reaching up to the top of your vagina with clean fingers to feel the threads. Do not pull on the threads.

If you feel more than just the threads or if you cannot feel the threads, AVBELA may not be in the right position and may not prevent pregnancy. Use non-hormonal birth control (such as condoms and spermicide) and ask your healthcare provider to check that AVBELA is still in the right place.

How will AVBELA