

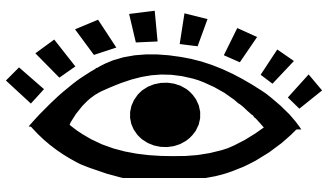
A Closer Look at the Pill

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released an interesting fact sheet on the efficacy of the pill in reducing the number of abortions. Among some of the facts given are that with typical use, the pill often fails to prevent pregnancy. The failure rate of teens using contraception in a twelve month period is 16.4% while the failure rate for co-habiting teens rises to 47%. Why does the pill fail? Among the reasons cited are that women often forget to take the pill every day—even missing the dose by three hours appears to increase the risk for pregnancy. Another reason is that the use of contraception often leads to risk compensation. This is where there is a "greater willingness to engage in potentially risky behavior when one believes risk has been reduced through the use of technology."

The article went on to state that a greater access to contraception

does not appear to prevent pregnancy or abortions. The author of one study cited in the article states that "...providing more family planning clinics, far from having the effect of reducing conception rates, has led to an increase...The availability of the morning after pill seems to be encouraging risky behavior. It appears that if people have access to family planning advice they think they automatically have a lower risk of pregnancy." In support, studies show that 48% of unintended pregnancies and 54% of women seeking abortions were using contraception during the month they got pregnant. What does appear to prevent unintended teen pregnancies is a decline in sexual activity lending further support to church teachings.

This fact sheet can be viewed on the USCCB web site at: www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/contraception/contrafactsheet0207.shtml.



Articles of Interest



The July 13th edition of Time Magazine recently ran a thought provoking article on the state of marriage today and ultimately what its purpose is. It is entitled "*Is there Hope for the American Marriage?*". In it, the author concluded that the purpose of marriage is "...to raise the next generation, to protect and teach it, to instill in it the habits of conduct and character that will ensure the generation's own safe passage into adulthood..."

This article can be found on Time Magazine's web site at: www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1908243-1,00.html

TLC Mail



A TLC reader recently contacted us by phone asking for information on cord blood banking. We hope this helps others who are interested.

Cord Blood Banking What is it?

The blood left over in the umbilical cord and placenta after a baby is born.

What is it used for?

Cord blood contains stem cells capable of treating as many as 80 different illnesses.

Is there any cost?

When donating to a public cord blood bank, there is no cost. Your baby's blood is available for anyone to use and is free of charge to the donating individual and their relatives. Private cord blood banks store your cord blood for use exclusively by your child or a relative. However, there are often collection and maintenance fees.

How do I get started?

The following is a list of hospitals that participate in cord blood banking in Michigan. Contact the hospital for the specific cord blood bank they work with.

Oakwood Hospital, Dbn.MI
Hutzel Hospital, Detroit, MI
St. John Hospital, Detroit
Providence Hospital, Novi
Providence Hospital, Southfield.
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ypsilanti.

For more information on cord blood banking visit the American Pregnancy Association at www.americanpregnancy.org/labornbirth/cordbloodbanking.html

Please send topics, articles, questions, and suggestions to me via e-mail at indorsten@aol.com.