



Christian Voices for Life

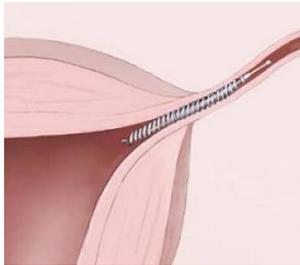
Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Essure to be Removed from the Market



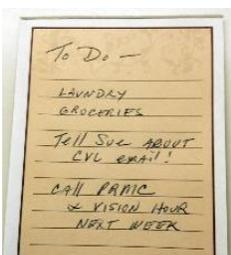
Education: Essure is a device used to permanently sterilize women. A metal coil is placed into each fallopian tube. The natural inflammatory response to a foreign body results in blockage of the tube. Since its approval by the FDA (U. S. Food & Drug Administration) in 2002, over 30,000 women have complained about adverse side effects.(1) The original company to offer the product, Conceptus, was acquired by Bayer in 2013. In 2016 FDA instituted a boxed warning and patient decision checklist to make sure women were better informed of the risk. In April of 2018, the FDA restricted sales of the device to physicians who agreed to review the checklist with each patient and have them sign it before making their final decision. (2) Bayer continues to insist on the safety of the product, and is fighting multiple lawsuits concerning the damage suffered by women. However, they have announced their intention to discontinue sales in the United States by the end of 2018. Bayer has already withdrawn the device from the market in all other countries outside the U. S., reportedly because of declining sales.(1)

While all Christian groups do not agree on the morality of contraception or sterilization, they do agree that children are a gift from God, and that every decision should be based on the desire to follow God's will rather than to fulfill our own selfish desires. The Catholic church teaches the sterilization is wrong because it is a destruction of a healthy function of our body, the way God created us to be, and because we are not to separate the life-giving aspect of sex from the love-giving aspect. God designed us to give ourselves completely to our spouse. To deliberately act to hold back our fertility is to hold back part of ourselves.(3) We have the choice to refrain from sexual activity during fertile periods (4) or to simply trust God to give us as many children as He wants us to have, and give us what we need to care for them.

1. <https://www.pop.org/bayer-to-stop-selling-controversial-sterilization-device-following-mounting-lawsuits-and-complaints/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=57f4412d-3149-46ff-88a5-944>
2. www.fda.gov/medicaldevices/productsandmedicalprocedures/implantsandprosthetics/essurepermanentbirthcontrol/ucm452254.htm
3. <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2015/love-sex-and-sterilization.cfm>
4. <https://www.factsaboutfertility.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/FABM-Overview.pdf>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please touch the hearts of all Americans to understand Your beautiful plan for sexuality. Help every married couple grow in their love for each other, and be open to life as they express their love. Help us all to appreciate the incredible privilege of partnering with You to create a new life. Help all married couples to focus on Your will for their marriage, trusting in You, rather than holding back from having children in order to preserve their own goals for material wealth or freedom from responsibility.



Action: As parents are struggling with the exhausting job of raising 2 or 3 young children, it may be very tempting to take a permanent step to prevent additional children. Gently remind them that it is generally unwise to make a life-changing decision during a time of stress. Encourage them to consider how they can best respect the way God has created us, and do God's will for themselves and their marriage.