Methods of birth control vary for female students

The Health Center and Planned Parenthood offer emergency options

John Moe

For most college students, pregnancy is something that they try to avoid. The Health Center and Planned Parenthood both provide birth control options as well as emergency contraception for those who have become pregnant.

Lola Wobken, a senior at UConn, believes that birth control should be readily available for students and faculty. "I think every woman should have the right to choose whether or not to use birth control." Wobken said that it is common to hear students say that they don't want anything to do with birth control, but they should realize that birth control is important.

"Women should not be afraid to discuss their sex life and whether they are taking contraceptives." Wobken said. "If you're sexually active, you should at least consider the possibility of getting contraceptives to prevent pregnancy, emergency contraception and other types of birth control.

Emergency contraception is about 78 percent to 80 percent effective. Statistically, if 100 women have unprotected sex during the first 72 hours, they become pregnant between 24 and 40 times. If they have unprotected sex later than 72 hours, they become pregnant in 40 to 60 times. Emergency contraception should be used within 72 hours of unprotected sex or unprotected sex within 72 hours.

Before taking emergency contraception, one should consider the following:

1. The amount of time after unprotected sex that the contraceptive is being taken.
2. The amount of time it takes the contraceptive to take effect.
3. The amount of time it takes the contraceptive to work.
4. The amount of time it takes the contraceptive to fail.

The Health Center and Planned Parenthood offer emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy. Emergency contraception is a form of birth control that is taken after unprotected sex.

Emergency contraception consists of either the pill or the copper IUD. The pill is a hormone that prevents ovulation. The copper IUD is a small device that is inserted into the uterus. The copper IUD prevents sperm from reaching the egg.

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Emergency contraception is available at Planned Parenthood, the Health Center, and UConn Student Health Services. To make an appointment for emergency contraception, you should call the Health Center at 860-486-4000.

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