

## **FEMALE STERILIZATION**

### **Effectiveness (chances of NOT getting pregnant)**

- More than 99%

### **What is female sterilization?**

- A surgical intervention that mechanically blocks the fallopian tube to prevent the sperm and egg from uniting.

### **Advantages of female sterilization**

- Very reliable and effective method of contraception.
- Permanent method.
- No long term side effects.
- Does not interrupt lovemaking.
- Does not require partner involvement.
- Nothing to remember or buy.
- Does not interfere with breast-feeding.

### **Disadvantages of female sterilization**

- Permanent method.
- Difficult and expensive to reverse surgical procedure.
- Requires skilled surgeon to perform procedure.
- Expensive procedure.
- Possible ectopic (tubal) pregnancy if method fails.
- No protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

### **How Do I Decide?**

- Are you sure you do not want any more children?
- Are you willing to have an operation to prevent pregnancy?
- Have you considered other methods?
- Does this method fit with your religious or moral beliefs?
- Your decision for female sterilization should be what is best for you.
- Do you want to discuss this method with your clinician, family planning clinic staff, husband, partner, friend, or family member? In the Philadelphia area, click here for a list of local family planning clinics. Outside of Philadelphia, please click here for a clinic near you [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org).

**REMINDER: This method does not provide any protection against sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) including HIV and Hepatitis B. Using condoms consistently can help provide protection from STD's.**