

## **WITHDRAWAL (COITUS INTERRUPTUS)**

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

- 81% to 96%

### **What is Withdrawal?**

- A contraceptive method that prevents fertilization by preventing the contact between the sperm and egg.
- Couple engages in penile-vaginal intercourse until ejaculation is about to occur.
- The male partner withdraws his penis from the vagina and away from the external genitalia of the female partner.

### **Advantages of Withdrawal:**

- Costs nothing.
- Requires no devices.
- Involves no chemicals.
- Available in any situation.

### **Disadvantages of Withdrawal:**

- Chances of getting pregnant with this method are much higher than with any other method.
- Some men have difficulty telling when they will ejaculate.
- Some men may not withdraw in sufficient time.
- Interruption of the excitement or plateau phase of the sexual response cycle may decrease pleasurable experience.
- High risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

### **How do I decide?**

- Is the risk of getting pregnant too large?
- What about the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease?
- Does the method fit with your religious or moral beliefs?

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 check for a clinic near you: <http://www.plannedparenthood.org>.