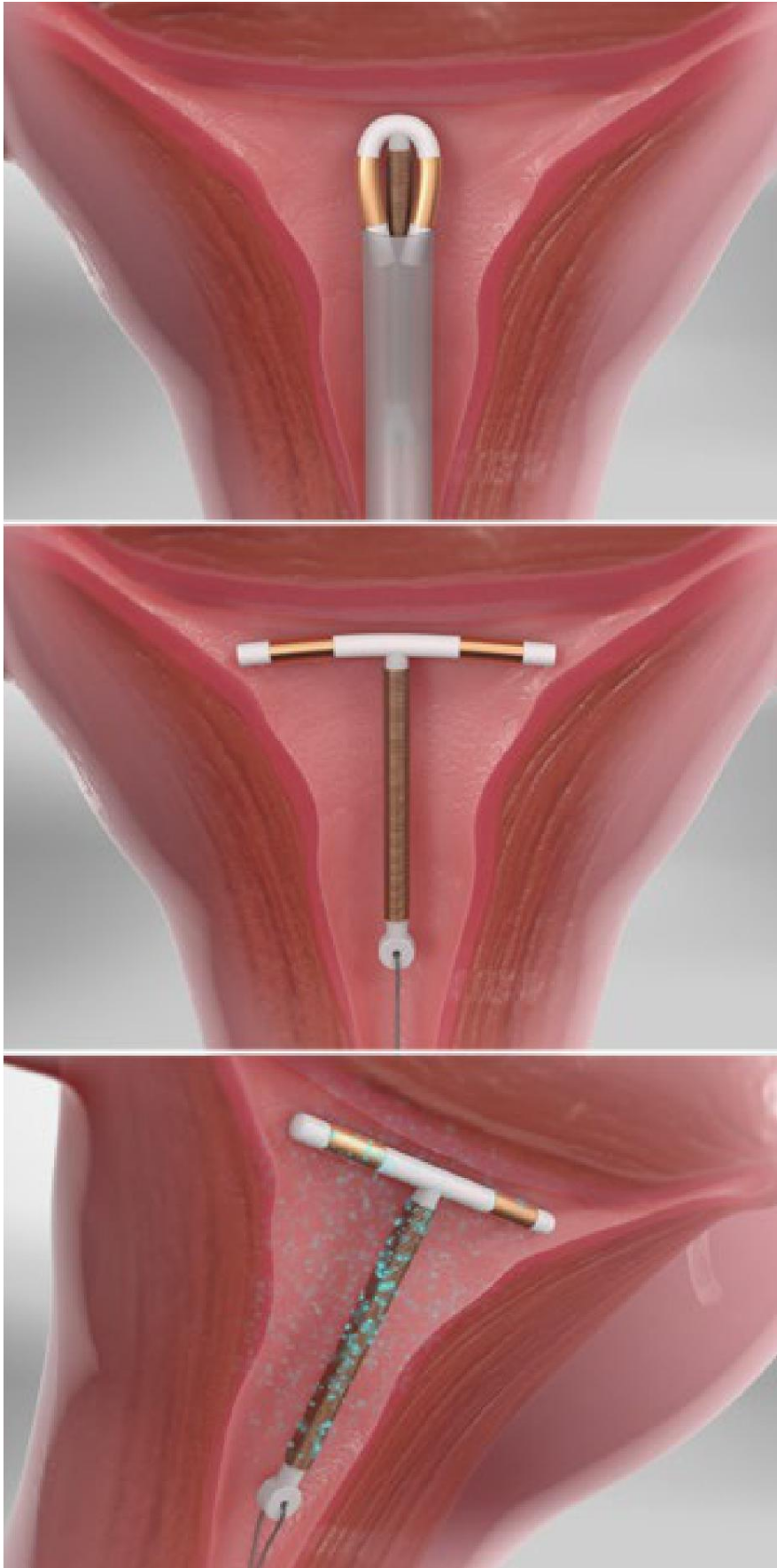




## Copper IUD (Intrauterine Device)



### Overview

This is a small, flexible device made of plastic and copper. A doctor puts it inside your uterus (we also call it your "womb") to prevent pregnancy. It can be left inside your uterus for years.

### Placing the Device

How is it placed? First, we load the IUD into a small tube. The flexible arms collapse so it can fit inside. Then, we carefully push the tube through the opening of your cervix (that's the entrance to your uterus). When it's inside your uterus, the IUD is pushed out of the tube. The arms spring apart to keep it inside you. Two thin threads will hang through the opening of your cervix. These threads let a doctor remove the IUD later.

### How it Prevents Pregnancy

How does it prevent pregnancy? The copper in the device triggers an inflammation response in your uterus. This prevents sperm from reaching and fertilizing your eggs. And, your eggs may not be able to implant in the wall of your uterus. Your copper IUD will work for years. It will eventually need to be replaced. And when you want to become pregnant, a doctor can remove the IUD. After removal, your uterus will return to normal.

### Conclusion

Talk to your doctor to find out if a copper IUD is right for you.