

## **Emergency Contraceptives: the Mechanism of Action**

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The mechanism of Action (MOA) of emergency contraceptives (EC) is said to be the prevention or delay of ovulation, with Ulipristal Acetate (UPA) being more effective than Levonorgestrel (LNG). This view appears questionable. In fact, LNG can delay ovulation only when is given in the first of the fertile days, before LH starts to rise. UPA effectiveness, as well, is 100% only at the same time while, subsequently, it decreases sharply and becomes null at the LH peak: one-two days before ovulation its effect is placebo-like and ovulation occurs when naturally scheduled. In the peri-ovulatory days, consequently, EC are unable to prevent or delay follicular rupture and these days are the most fertile of the menstrual cycle, the ones in which most fertilizations are expected. Nevertheless, EC effectiveness in preventing the appearance of clinical pregnancies is consistent, even when EC are taken after fertilization-time: this suggests a primary role for endometrial effects able to impair the embryo-nidation. All these evidences will be presented and discussed widely.