

‘Month-After-Sex’ Pill Is ‘Abortion Not Contraception’

A so-called “contraceptive” pill, which could work up to a month after unprotected sex, is a “contradiction in terms,” critics say.

Researchers have published a journal article calling for such a pill to be developed, saying it is scientifically possible but politically difficult.

Dr. Peter Saunders of the Christian Medical Fellowship says this would be “abortion not contraception” because it would destroy an embryo rather than prevent a conception.

He says it would effectively be “the deregulation of early abortion by making it available over the counter.”

He also points to the risk of increasing sexually transmitted infections and the risk of exposing women to sexual abuse.

And Norman Wells of the Family Education Trust says researchers are essentially calling for the development of an abortion pill.

“To call a drug a contraceptive when it is designed and intended to be used after intercourse and potentially after fertilization is a complete misnomer,” he says.

“There is no such thing as an ‘after-sex contraceptive pill.’ It is a contradiction in terms,” he adds. “In their zeal to increase choices for women, the researchers have lost sight of the other person who is involved in every abortion no matter how early a pregnancy is ended.”

Dr. Elizabeth Raymond, from the New York-based technology firm Gynuity, and colleagues from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden say women would welcome drug companies developing the

pill and that they “deserve all possible options” when it comes the issue.

Raymond says, “Twenty years ago, a multicountry survey specifically designed to investigate women’s feelings about a post-fertilization contraceptive pill found remarkably high acceptance.”

She says there seems to be no evidence that women have changed their minds since then, and that the current political environment needs refocusing.

She adds, “To meet the challenges of our increasingly complicated world, women deserve all possible options for controlling and preserving their reproductive health and lives.”