



Transcript from *Contraception 101: More than Just Pills and Condoms*
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Part 3: The Patch

Eve Espey, MD [*Faculty, OBGYN, University of New Mexico*]: One of the other new uh, basically a pill that in a different format is the patch. Uh, the, and...and the way to think about that, it looks like a little band aid. Uh, it's just like the birth control pill except it's...it's a uh, different format. That was approved by the FDA in 2002. Uh, it has the same non-contraceptive benefits as pills, meaning that uh...that uh, it...it prevents uterine and ovarian cancer, good cycle control and the proof perfect use is a little bit better. So women can use patches a little bit better, but not really very much. Uh, so again in sort of a study atmosphere women tend to do a little bit better with putting that patch on every week, but over time uh, they'll probably use very little difference because failure rates are actually quite similar with the patch as with pills. It's about eight percent and the way to think about that is if a hundred women are using the method or if a hundred women are using the pills or the patch, in a year uh, about eight of them will get pregnant. Now my patients would be more like twenty-five. But uh, but it's, there are just so many barriers to...to...to getting those pills. The patch, there is no generic equivalent for that so it's about fifty dollars uh, a month as...as well. The patch goes on weekly. So when we put the patch on, on Monday, next Monday puts, takes that one off; puts a new one; the next

Monday, takes that one off; puts a new one and then the following week, no patch and has a period.