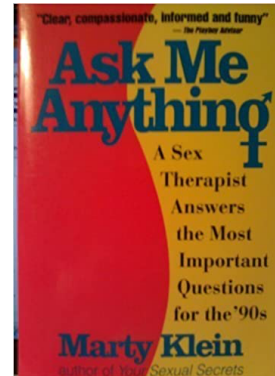


**"Ask Me Anything:
A Sex Therapist Answers
the Most Important
Questions for the '90s."**

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Question #73 from "Ask Me Anything," page 46

73. Whose responsibility is birth control—the man's or woman's?

The answer is "C"—none of the above.

Birth control is a routine part of sex. Both partners benefit from its use, both partners should and can be equally well informed about it, and so both partners should take responsibility for it. Equally.

Essentially, this means that each partner should be unwilling to have unprotected intercourse. This decision should only be made once, at the beginning of a sexual relationship. After that, the only negotiation should be about the how, not the if.

Regardless of the method used or its frequency, if one partner is constantly complaining or suggesting unprotected intercourse, the responsibility is not shared.