

Another strike against hormone shots; Seattle contraceptive conference

Male Contraception Update

Another strike against contraceptive hormone shot for women

Future of Contraception Initiative conference to convene world's leading contraceptive development researchers and policymakers, Oct. 29-31

Another strike against hormone shot for women

In today's New York Times: the hormone shot contraceptive Depo-Provera appears to [raise the risk](#) of transmission of HIV between men and women.

Depo-Provera has a checkered history, with concerns raised at various times about [bone density](#) loss (it has since been learned that the density is at least partly recoverable upon stopping), dosage appropriateness (a 31% [lower dose](#) was later introduced), depression, and weight gain. However, it remains popular among young women and women who want to keep their contraceptive use secret from their parents, husbands, or husband's family-- and among women who must travel a long way to access health services and rely on the accessibility of a shot every 3 months.

Although this result only applies to the 3-month progestin shot, which is a large dose of synthetic progestin, one can't help but be concerned about the possible implications for long-acting progestin implants (e.g. Implanon, Jadelle, Sino-implant/Zarin) and the use of progestin shots as part of a male contraceptive regimen. This news increases the urgency of alternative long-acting, non-hormonal contraceptives for men and women.

Future of Contraception Initiative conference to convene world leaders in Seattle. Oct. 29-31

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Just in time, world contraceptive research leaders will [gather](#) October 29-31 in Seattle to discuss the need for new methods and the most promising research. International teams will be well-represented at the conference, which is hosted by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NIH), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the University of Washington. Talks and poster presentations will include:

- The male contraceptive [pill](#) in advanced clinical trials in Indonesia, with both a researcher and a government official attending
- First published results of a pilot study on reversibility of [RISUG](#) polymer gel, the 10+ year nonhormonal shot
- Initial results of an ongoing Gates Foundation [Grand Challenges Explorations](#)-funded study testing RISUG in the uterus as a nonsurgical *female* sterilization/contraceptive
- Studies on [ultrasound](#) in three different species (rat, dog, monkey) from three different university groups
- New early-stage results on a male pill being studied in the U.K. that could drastically [reduce HIV transmission](#) by producing a semen-free orgasm
- The latest [survey](#) data from MCIP and MaleContraceptives.org on [demand](#) for male methods

along with discussion of expanding access to improved female contraceptives already on the market in other countries (e.g. indomethacin pain-reducing IUD in China, postpartum progesterone [vaginal ring](#) in Chile) and talks covering many other approaches, such as [retinoic-acid receptor antagonists](#), in the very full male contraceptive research pipeline.

Male contraception researchers who are not already attending should make immediate plans to be there, as space is running out. Male contraception advocates, members of the public, and press are

also welcome while space remains.

Learn more: [Future of Contraception Initiative](#)

Members of the public:

Can't attend, but want to see policymakers finish the job on new male methods? Make your voice heard: fill out the [survey/petition](#) and you'll be represented in the poster presentation on demand.

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