

Contraceptive methods and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) / World Health Organization Special Programme on AIDS and Special Programme of Research, Development, and Research Training in Human Reproduction.

Contributors

Special Programme on AIDS (World Health Organization)
Special Programme of Research, Development, and Research Training in Human Reproduction (World Health Organization)

Publication/Creation

1987.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/stnxhwbh>

License and attribution

Conditions of use: it is possible this item is protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use this item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s).



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



SPECIAL PROGRAMME ON AIDS
AND
SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH TRAINING
IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION

JOINT STATEMENT

CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS AND
HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

A meeting on contraceptive methods and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection was organized by the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, and the Special Programme on AIDS, on 29-30 June 1987. Its purpose was to review available information on the possible interactions between contraception and HIV infection, and to identify research needs in this area. Sixteen participants from 9 countries attended the meeting. The participants represented epidemiology, immunology, sexually transmitted disease control, reproductive physiology, and gynaecology.

Women at risk of HIV infection need safe and effective contraception. Furthermore, given the substantial risk of perinatal transmission, it is particularly important that women already infected with HIV have access to effective methods of fertility regulation. In both cases, the potential interaction between HIV infection and contraception must be considered. Three areas of potential interaction were reviewed: a) susceptibility to HIV infection; b) infectiousness of HIV-infected persons; c) development and course of HIV-related illness.

All current methods of contraception were reviewed. The following methods were reviewed in detail, since they present the highest potential for interaction with HIV infection: a) intrauterine devices (IUDs); b) combined oral contraceptives; c) progestogen-only contraceptives (e.g., injectables, implants, progestogen-only oral contraceptives).

Irrespective of whether other contraceptive methods are used, condoms should always be used whenever there is a risk of sexual transmission of HIV infection. Condoms and spermicides will be reviewed in more detail at another meeting.

A number of theoretical interactions, both adverse and beneficial, between the contraceptive methods and HIV infection were considered. Conclusions were difficult to draw because of the marked paucity in this area of basic and epidemiological data. For example, no epidemiological data are currently available on the relationship between HIV infection and the use of IUDs, or progestogen-only contraceptives. In addition, although the data in one unpublished report have suggested a possible association between oral contraceptives and susceptibility to HIV infection, the data are preliminary and insufficient to support any conclusion at this time. Moreover, the data in other preliminary reports have suggested no association between oral contraception and susceptibility to HIV infection.

R 1087 - 1187

This document is not a formal publication of the World Health Organization (WHO), and all rights are reserved by the Organization. The document may, however, be freely reviewed, abstracted, reproduced or translated, in part or in whole, but not for sale or use in conjunction with commercial purposes.

The views expressed in documents by named authors are solely the responsibility of those authors.

Ce document n'est pas une publication officielle de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) et tous les droits y afférents sont réservés par l'Organisation. S'il peut être commenté, résumé ou cité sans aucune restriction, il ne saurait cependant être reproduit ni traduit, partiellement ou en totalité, pour la vente ou à des fins commerciales.

Les opinions exprimées dans les documents par des auteurs cités nommément n'engagent que lesdits auteurs.