MPTs for Reproductive Health

One Product
Multiple Health Solutions
Countless Lives Saved

MPTs Save Lives With Better Prevention for Women’s Health

Across the globe, women often struggle to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs. These needs may vary according to geographic setting and life circumstances, but an improved range of prevention options has the potential to benefit all women. With 89 million unintended pregnancies and nearly 2 million new HIV cases globally each year, women need easy-to-use products that provide more comprehensive protection. Even for women using contraception, most available methods offer no protection against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) like HIV.

What are MPTs?

Multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) are an innovative class of products that deliver varied combinations of HIV prevention, other sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention, and contraception and will improve the lives of women and families worldwide.

The ideal MPT product for women would be:

- Extremely safe
- Affordable
- Easy-to-use

Why are MPTs a Better Prevention Method?

Condoms are a vital tool in the prevention method mix and have made dramatic contributions in health worldwide. It is important to recognize, however, that while condoms are a great prevention option for some, they are not the optimal option for others – their use may be difficult to negotiate, or some may not like how they feel. The key is to ensure that women have a range of comprehensive options that they can choose from, which is the goal of the MPT field.

What MPTs are in the Pipeline?

- New vaginal ring designs that deliver different combinations of protection.
- Vaginal inserts, films, and gels that deliver protection against HIV and other STIs that could be used in combinations with other contraceptives.
- IUDs and implant technologies that could combine contraception and infection prevention
- Co-administered and co-packaged MPTs that could provide protection against STIs, like HIV, and contraception.

To learn more about MPTs check out www.MPTs101.org.
By the Numbers – The Need for MPTs

- Every four minutes, three young women are infected with HIV, and HIV remains the leading killer of women of reproductive age globally. HIV stigma still poses a significant barrier to prevention uptake. By combining HIV prevention with contraception, MPTs could leverage some young women's need for (and willingness to use) family planning to increase the reach of HIV prevention.

- STIs are the most commonly reported diseases in the United States and can lead to cervical cancer and infertility among other sequelae. Each day, more than 1 million people contract an STI worldwide.

- Each year, more than 300,000 women die from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. MPTs could potentially decrease the number of high-risk pregnancies and births and reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission.

- There are 89 million unintended pregnancies each year – approximately half of all pregnancies that occur worldwide.

- The ability to better plan and space pregnancies as well as avoid infection through an MPT could have additional social and economic benefits for women.

Get Involved
To learn more and get involved in the national MPT movement, including ways to help advance MPT research, funding, advocacy, and policy, please visit: www.MPTs101.org and www.theIMPT.org.

The Initiative for Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (IMPT) advances the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls worldwide. As a product-neutral learning network, it fosters the progress of the MPT field. We believe that the availability of desirable methods that deliver an array of prevention combinations will improve the lives of women and their families worldwide. Comprised of members from across disciplines and continents, the IMPT is the central body that researchers, product developers, funders, policymakers, and advocates rely on for objective technical guidance and strategic planning related to MPTs.

Sources

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