



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Link between Depo Shots and Increased Risk of HIV Transfer

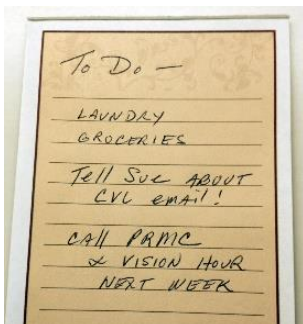


Education: There has been evidence for decades that use of the injectable contraceptive DMPA, sold as Depo Provera, brings an increased risk of HIV infection.(1,2) Depo shots last for 3 months and are the contraceptive of choice of population control programs in sub-Saharan Africa, where HIV is also common. It is also often used by poor women in the U.S. The World Health Organization (WHO) did issue an advisory that women using Depo in high HIV communities should also use condoms to reduce the risk of HIV transfer.(1) However, in 2012 a new initiative called FP2020 was launched to greatly expand long-acting contraceptive use ('family planning') in African women, financed in large part by the Gates Foundation. WHO has been accused of unofficially submitting its policies to the Gates Foundation for approval, in recognition of the 10% of its annual revenue being supplied by the Foundation.(1) The U.S. government is another major donor of WHO. In response to the FP2020 initiative, Pfizer promised to double its production of Depo Provera. In 2015 WHO issued revised guidelines which claimed that there was "no evidence of a causal association between DMPA use and an increase in women's risk of HIV acquisition."(1) That statement was criticized by women's health advocates. Now, in August of 2016, the Guttmacher Institute (affiliated with Planned Parenthood, and in partnership with WHO) issued a press release stating that a review of recent evidence does suggest that DMPA may cause an increased risk of acquiring HIV.(2)

1. https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/gates-foundation-suspected-of-forcing-dangerous-contraceptive-on-africans/
2. https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/cover-evidence-contraceptive-hiv-link/



Prayer: Dear Father God, please have mercy on all poor women who are pressured to use contraceptives. Please allow them to be correctly and fully informed about the health risks of these methods, which include increased risk of breast cancer and blood clots as well as (for Depo Provera at least) increased risk of HIV transfer. Help all women seeking to limit the number of children they bear to be aware of the safe and effective means of fertility awareness methods, as well as the value of chastity. Help all those involved in fighting poverty in third world countries to truly work for the good of the people, and not use such efforts as a guise for prejudicial action to reduce unwanted populations.



Action: Be aware of the serious health risks of hormonal contraception. Ask your doctor if they are informing their patients of the risks of hormonal contraceptives as well as the nature of those products to sometimes end a life already conceived. Are they aware of the effectiveness of fertility awareness methods as an alternative to chemical contraception? A brochure outlining the physical and other risks of contraception is available [here](#), and web site with information about fertility awareness methods is [here](#). Share them with both your friends and your doctor!