

**Title:** Combining HIV Prevention and Contraceptive Technologies

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Millions of women, especially in developing countries, need protection against sexually transmitted diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, and family planning methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies. In many of these countries, the AIDS pandemic is intricately intertwined with overpopulation, poverty, malnutrition, and gender inequality. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop multi-purpose prevention technologies. The main strategies pursued for the development of microbicide contraceptive combinations include two drugs with different targets and mechanisms of action (MOAs), one drug with contraceptive and microbicidal properties, and drug-device combinations with two or more MOAs. Dual-protection delivery systems currently in development by CONRAD and others include sustained-release intravaginal rings (IVRs), barrier devices, and gels delivering anti-HIV and contraceptive drugs. Development of these dual-protection technologies requires a comprehensive preclinical/early clinical testing algorithm providing data on safety, efficacy and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics for both MOAs (i.e., microbicide and contraceptive), and a regulatory strategy that encompasses both applications. Among other technologies, an IVR delivering a progestin/reverse transcriptase inhibitor combination is currently undergoing preclinical assessment.