New study demonstrates safety and efficacy of imiquimod in uncircumcised males

New research published in the International Journal of STD and AIDS shows that the immune response modifier (IRM) imiquimod is safe and effective in the treatment of uncircumcised males with foreskin-associated genital warts. Total clearance of the warts was achieved in 62% of male patients receiving topical treatment three times per week – found to be the optimal dosing regimen – for up to 16 weeks.

Source: 3M Health Care Ltd.

No legal rights on abortion for men

Men have no legal right to prevent or insist upon abortion. In the last 30 years three cases have come before the courts. Each time the case for a man having the right to prevent an abortion has been rejected. Legally an abortion is a matter between a woman and her doctor.

Women seeking abortion are entitled to the same degree of confidentiality as those seeking any other medical care. A doctor should not notify a woman’s partner of her request for abortion, neither should an abortion provider disclose any information about an abortion consultation (even the fact that it has taken place) to a third party without the woman’s consent.

Most men seem to be supportive of their partner’s decision to end an unwanted pregnancy. A survey at one of BPAS’ largest London clinics found that 66% of women attending for abortion were accompanied by a man – usually a partner, but sometimes a friend, brother, or other male relative.

Source: BPAS

Abortion statistics

• Since the 1967 Abortion Act there have been nearly five million abortions in the UK.
• In 1999, 17,370 women resident in England and Wales had abortions.
• Most abortions take place in the early weeks of pregnancy. In 1999, 43% (n = 73,882) were carried out at less than 9 weeks gestation, and 89% (n = 154,682) were carried out at 12 weeks and under.
• Nineteen percent of abortions were for married women.

Source: BPAS

What men think about abortion

A London street survey of 200 men, commissioned by BPAS, found that a large majority agreed with legal abortion and would support the decision of a partner with an unwanted pregnancy.

The survey revealed:
• Seventy-four percent of men supported the provision of legal abortion when a pregnancy was unwanted.
• Eleven percent of men said they would not support a partner who wanted an abortion.
• Fifty-four percent of men said they personally knew someone who had had an abortion.
• Sixty-three percent of men said there was not enough information about abortion available for men.

The structured interviews were carried out in central London during April 2001.

Source: BPAS

Decrease in teenage pregnancy

Figures released recently by the Office for National Statistics show a reduction in teenage pregnancy rates for 1999.

The figures show a 3% decrease in the conception rates for 15—19-year-olds, from 64.9 per thousand to 62.8 per thousand. This is a positive trend, but still higher than pre-pill scare levels.

Amongst 13—15-year-olds, the figures have gone down more significantly – by 7% from nine per thousand to 8.3 per thousand, which is back to the 1994 pre-pill scare levels.

Source: fpa

Challenge to OTC emergency contraception overthrown

The fpa has welcomed the Lords decision that progestogen-only emergency contraception will remain a pharmacy medicine.

Source: fpa

FpaNI goes to High Court

FpaNI is taking the historic step of mounting a legal challenge in the High Court to ensure that all women in Northern Ireland have equal access to abortion and reproductive health care services.

Source: fpa

New fpa helpline number

The fpa’s contraceptive education service helpline has a new low-cost number, giving people easier access to advice on contraception, abortion, pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The helpline is open from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 7 pm on 0845 310 1334.

Source: fpa

Sexual Health Week

This year Sexual Health Week (July 30th – August 4th) will focus on raising awareness of contraception and sexual health among older people.

Source: fpa
**Mortality rates**
The chance of a woman dying from complications of pregnancy, childbirth, or unsafe abortion during her lifetime:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected countries:</th>
<th>Regions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia 1 in 7</td>
<td>Africa 1 in 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India 1 in 57</td>
<td>Asia 1 in 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil 1 in 128</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States 1 in 3418</td>
<td>and Caribbean 1 in 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain 1 in 9058</td>
<td>Europe 1 in 1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern America 1 in 3750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Population Action International

**Same-sex marriage, adoption and registered partnership in the Netherlands**
At midnight on April 1st 2001 four laws came into force in the Netherlands (as a result of a Royal Decree published in the official journal Staatsblad 2001, no. 145):
- The law of 21st December 2000 (Staatsblad 2001, no. 9) on the opening up of marriage for same-sex partners.
- The law of 21st December 2000 (Staatsblad 2001, no. 10) on adoption by same-sex partners.
- The law of 13th December 2000 (Staatsblad 2001, no. 11) on various matters, including the further equality between marriage and partnership registration (parts of this law took effect earlier this year).
- The law of 8th March 2001 (Staatsblad 2001, no. 128) adjusting various other laws to the opening up of marriage and adoption.

For answers to 12 frequently asked questions, see [http://www.gaykrant.com/index.html](http://www.gaykrant.com/index.html). There is also a website, with translations of the marriage and adoption laws: [http://ruljls.leidenuniv.nl/user/cwaaldij/www/](http://ruljls.leidenuniv.nl/user/cwaaldij/www/).

Source: Kees Waaldijk, Senior Lecturer, E.M. Meijers Institute of Legal Studies, Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands. Email: cwaaldijk@law.leidenuniv.nl.

**MSI launches online abortion counselling**
Global family planning agency Marie Stopes International (MSI) is launching an online abortion counselling service for any woman in the UK who is experiencing a crisis pregnancy and is unsure of what to do. The address for this service is: [http://www.mariestopes.org.uk/abortion_online_counselling](http://www.mariestopes.org.uk/abortion_online_counselling).

Source: MSI