




## THE CONTRACEPTIVE CONFIDENCE AND CONSEQUENCES SURVEY (PART II)

A new international survey investigating contraceptive misuse and its consequences shows that over a third of women continue having unprotected sexual intercourse when the Pill's reliability is compromised. Yet only a minority of women are aware of all situations that cause the Pill's reliability to be compromised, suggesting many others unknowingly risk pregnancy. The survey also shows that pregnancy scares have a major impact on the lives of both women and men. The findings highlight the need for contraceptive methods that minimize the risk of incorrect use.

The results emerged in the Contraceptive Confidence and Consequences Survey conducted earlier this year by TNS-NIPO and involving over 8500 women and men between the ages of 16 and 40. The survey was commissioned by Organon, developer of the first once-a-month contraceptive ring and the first single-rod contraceptive implant. Previous findings showed that concern about missed pills significantly undermines women's confidence in the Pill.

### CONTRACEPTIVE KNOW-HOW

- Nearly half of pill (47%) users were unable to spontaneously name any situation which compromises the Pill reliability; similarly around half of women (48%) relying on condoms were unable to spontaneously name any situation in which the condom's reliability was compromised.
- Even when prompted, few women or men are aware of all the situations when the Pill's reliability is compromised. Awareness that antibiotics can impact the Pill's reliability is particularly low.

	% prompted awareness women	% prompted awareness men
Forgotten/missed	93	88
Late pill	44	54
Antibiotics use	37	29
Vomiting	77	67
Use after expiry date	42	54

Base: All women/men who use or have used the Pill in the last five years

### DECREASED RELIABILITY

- More than four out of five (82%) pill users have knowingly experienced situations in which they were aware that the Pill was no longer reliable. The most common cause was *missed pills* cited by 68% of women. *Late intake* was cited by 30%, *vomiting* by 20% and *antibiotic use* by 20% of the pill users surveyed.
- The findings are consistent with a previous survey investigating the extent to which Pill users forget pills, which showed that 68% of women regularly miss pills and one in five miss at least one pill every month (European Women on Contraception 2003).



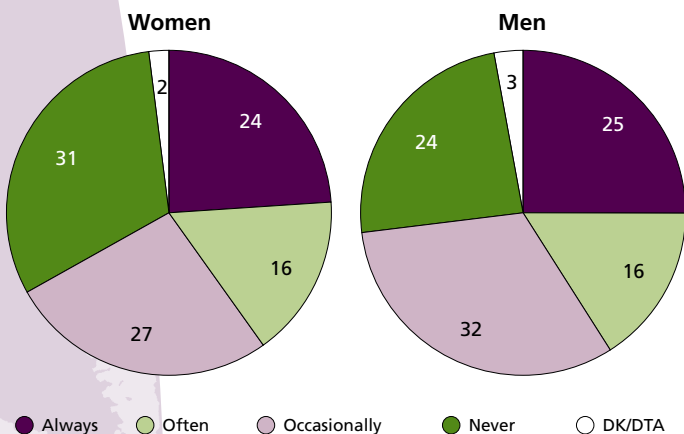
### LET'S TALK

- One in five women who thought their method of contraception was less reliable, did not discuss it with anyone. Slightly over half (56%) discussed it with their partner, 38% with a female friend and 23% with a doctor. Of women who discussed it with their doctor, 34% paid a direct visit to their doctor for discussion.
- While 65% of men assume their partners will always inform them if they think that their contraceptive method is no longer reliable, in reality, only 35% of women actually always tell their partners.
- Men are very supportive when women inform them that their contraceptive was less reliable. When women are asked about their partner's reaction, 57% described their partner's reactions as *supportive*; 28% *supportive and concerned* and 9% *solely concerned*.

## PREGNANCY RISK

- Half of pill users and male partners of pill users (50% and 49% respectively) continue to have sex when they know / suspect that the reliability of the Pill has been compromised.
- 76% of these women – 38% of all women - don't always use additional contraception in such circumstances.

### Having protected sexual intercourse while reliability of the Pill is decreased



Based on an international survey of 8531 heterosexual women and men between 16 and 40 years in 14 countries and conducted during March/April 2005. The online survey was conducted by TNS-NIPO ([www.tns-nipo.com](http://www.tns-nipo.com)) on behalf of Organon ([www.organon.com](http://www.organon.com)).

## PREGNANCY SCARES!

- Over half (54%) of pill users have ever thought they may be pregnant. The most likely reason was *forgot to take the Pill* cited by 63% of these women.
- 65% of women using the male condom had experienced a pregnancy scare. A *torn condom* was the most frequent cause for pregnancy concern followed by *slipped off during intercourse*. In addition, 14% of women and 19% of men said they had *forgotten to use a condom during intercourse*.
- 73% of women told their partners *they thought they might be pregnant*, although among single women only 29% did so. More than a third (36%) of partners reacted positively when the woman told them about their concerns and 23% reacted negatively.
- Who's to blame? Pill-users tend to take responsibilities for the fact that they could become pregnant, while women who use condoms are more likely to see this as a shared responsibility..
- ... men who use condoms tend to take responsibility for the fact that their partners could have become pregnant; while men whose partners were on the Pill mostly see this as a shared responsibility.
- Pregnancy scares had a negative emotional impact on 67% of women's and 59% of men's lives rising to 72% and 67% if their career/study was important to them. The most common reactions were: *I was worried, scared or nervous*.

	% of women who report negative impact on emotional life	% of men who report negative impact on emotional life
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>
Sweden	86	- *
Russia	85	65
Ukraine	77	68
Italy	76	78
Denmark	75	- *
The Netherlands	74	74
Hungary	69	54
Austria	68	53
Finland	68	68
Germany	63	61
Spain	60	57
Belgium	60	48
Switzerland	58	53
France	27	25

Base: Women and men who have experienced pregnancy distress  
\* Sample too small

- 23% of women who were in a relationship stated that it had a negative impact on their relationship. For men, the negative influence on the relationship was more frequent: 34% of men stated that it had a negative impact on their relationship. However 21% of women and 31% of men stated that the pregnancy scare had a positive impact on the relationship.
- 26% of all women who worked or studied at the time stated that the pregnancy scare had a negative impact on their work/study rising, and in those who who rated their future career as very important to them, the percentage rise to 34%
- Similarly, 26% of men who worked or studied at the time stated that it had a negative impact on their work/study rising to 42% among whose future career was very important to them. The negative impact on the study or job translates to decreased concentration, with men particularly prone to making more mistakes than normal.