

# New Long-Acting Injectable Contraceptive

## Intellectual Property Status

U.S. pending patent application

EP pending patent application

## Advantages

- Longer, 6-month contraceptive duration
- Better safety profile
- Novel microparticle formulation
- Non-human primate testing completed
- Fast track opportunity for regulatory approval

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## Technology Overview

Worldwide more than 211 million women become pregnant annually, however, approximately 87 million of these pregnancies are unintentional with half of them ending in abortion. Globally, the number of women in need for family planning and contraception is over 1.1 billion. To prevent unwanted pregnancies, currently more than 76% of women globally utilize some form of contraception, including 74 million women who use a long-acting injectable form specifically. Yet there are very few injectable options on the market, and the longest acting and most prevalent injectable product lasts for only 3 months and has several side effects, including bringing young women's estrogen levels to the menopausal range and increasing bone mineral loss. Discontinuation is also linked to this relatively short duration of contraceptive action.

Researchers at Eastern Virginia Medical School's CONRAD program (a nonprofit global health R&D organization) have developed a progestin-based (levonorgestrel butanoate) birth control injectable formulation that prevents pregnancy for 6 months. This novel injectable contraceptive leverages a unique microparticle formulation which allows the drug to be released over a 6-month period in a controlled manner. The development stage of this technology is relatively advanced with non-human primate testing completed with the new formulation and clinical studies conducted historically.

Please contact [techtransfer@evms.edu](mailto:techtransfer@evms.edu) if you are interested in partnering on the commercialization of this technology.