

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

One way you can get involved could be by visiting the Male Contraceptive Initiative website at: <https://www.malecontraceptive.org>

On their website, there is a 'Get Involved' tab which offers participations with their research. There is also a 'Donations' tab which offers you the chance to help with the funding of the development of male contraceptives.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Similarly, if you are interesting in finding out more about this topic, please visit the Male Contraceptive Initiative website at: <https://www.malecontraceptive.org>

On the website, you can find out more about which male contraceptives are being made as of right now and also resources about how male contraceptives works under the 'Get Involved' tab under resources.

## WHY ARE MALE CONTRACEPTIVES TAKING SO LONG?

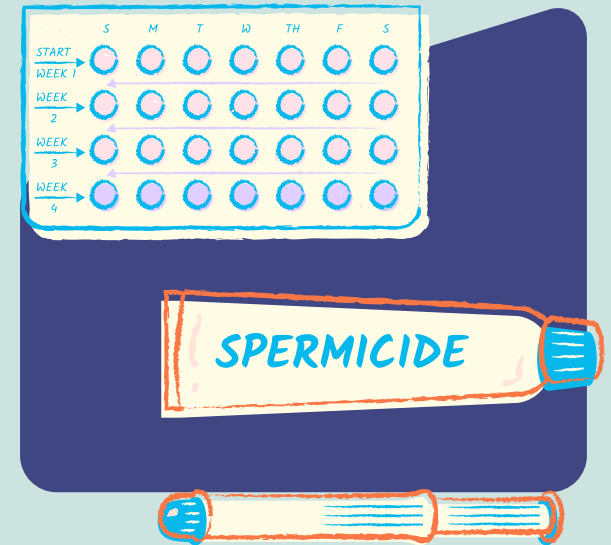
Social norms around the world have often positioned reproductive health as a female-centric issue, with a perception that men are not interested in or responsible for contraception.

Research for male contraceptives started around 60 years ago, but there has been little agency to bring male contraceptives into the market because of the cultural aspect that men are not included in the act of preventing pregnancies.

Women have to balance the medical load of an unwanted pregnancy and the side effects of birth control. Men don't need to consider the possibility of unwanted pregnancies thus showing a lower acceptance of side effects from contraception.

In this patriarchal society, there is also a bias in making male contraceptives safer and having fewer side effects, which is why it's taking so long to have a male contraceptive in the market.

## MALE CONTRACEPTIVES



## Why Research About Male Contraceptives?

Birth control and family planning have been a vital but controversial topic for a long time, but even more so since the overturning of Roe vs Wade in 2022. Since women's choices and rights are being stripped away, it begs the question: why is contraception a woman's responsibility in the first place?

## HOW DOES THIS TIE IN WITH SOCIAL ISSUES?

### Gender

Gender issues surrounding male contraceptives include problems that concern about men's masculinity, side effects like mood shifts, and that men shouldn't be responsible for contraception.

### Race

Black men's willingness to use male contraceptives is restricted by medical mistrust from the past. Addressing the history of medical mistreatment and exploitation of Black Americans is important for male contraceptives to benefit Black men's options in reproduction.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

### YourChoice Therapeutic: YCT529

- A hormone-free pill that inhibits sperm production through blocking the vitamin A from binding to the testes
- This prevents gene expression changes regarding the reproduction of sperm

### Contraline: ADAM

- It is an injection of hydrogel while under local anaesthesia into the vas deferens, the pair of tubes that function to transport sperm out of the testicles.
- The gel coats the tubes and blocks the sperm for an unknown amount of time (most likely months to a few years), allowing the body to reabsorb the sperm rather than continuing to travel out of the penis.

## WHY DO WE NEED IT AND WHAT IS STANDING IN OUR WAY?

- Both the burden of unwanted pregnancy and contraception typically falls to women
- Only options for men are condoms and vasectomies
- Abortions are being banned and choices are being taken away from women
- All other forms of male contraceptives are still in the development stage
- Needs funding while the world is getting more conservative
- Possibility of being exploited for eugenics
- Majority of men report that they are interested in trying male contraceptives
- Women still need to be able to protect themselves

