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AIDS

Birth Control That Raises the Risk of HIV?

Using an injectable form of hormonal birth control may double women's risk of contracting HIV, according to a large study of 3,800 African couples. And when used by HIV-positive women, the hormone shot doubled the risk of infection in their male partners, compared with using other forms of birth control or none at all. The biological reasons for the increased risks aren't clear, but the new findings are especially troubling given the dire health threats posed by unintended pregnancy and HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. In that region, the contraceptive shot in question is among the most popular forms of birth control.

