

## **A New Birth Control Method with Dual Action: The FemCap**

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**Objectives:** To provide what women want. Women want a new method of birth control that not only prevents pregnancy, but also protects against sexually transmitted diseases—STD's.

**Design and Methods:** The FemCap is designed to block the cervix—the portal of entry for sperm, bacteria, and viruses—mechanically and chemically. The FemCap is designed with a unique groove facing the vaginal opening, to store any microbicide that may be developed in the future, and to ensure immediate and prolonged exposure of the sperm, bacteria, and viruses to the spermicide/microbicide, thus protecting against STD's, as well as preventing pregnancy.

**Results:** Clinical and epidemiological studies have demonstrated that mechanical barriers are the only methods that can protect against STD's. The addition of a microbicide to the mechanical barrier will certainly reinforce this protection.

**Conclusion:** An effective female mechanical barrier such as the FemCap, that is designed to be used with a microbicide may fulfill what women want and need in order to prevent pregnancy and to protect against STD's.