

## Feeling NuvaRing during intercourse – a detailed analysis

ML Vree, GR Lounsbach

N.V. Organon, Oss, The Netherlands

**Objective:** NuvaRing is a novel combined contraceptive vaginal ring; each ring is used continuously for a three-week period followed by a one-week ring-free period. In the large clinical studies we asked whether women and their partners could feel NuvaRing during intercourse. The aim of this analysis was to see whether there was any correlation between both partners feeling the ring during intercourse.

**Methods:** Data were analyzed for the European (n=1145) and North American (n=1177) large clinical studies. The response to the question ‘could you feel the ring during intercourse?’ was compared for women and their partners using 2x2 tables. Results Overall, in most couples (65.1%), both partners never or rarely felt the ring whilst in 3.5% of couples both partners frequently or always felt the ring (completers and discontinuers). Slight differences were observed between continents; more North American couples reported both partners frequently or always feeling the ring compared with European couples (4.2% vs 2.8%), whereas slightly more European couples reported never or rarely feeling the ring (66.9% vs 63.3%). From the large clinical studies we know that more men than women reported feeling the ring during intercourse (32% vs 15%); in this analysis 17.5% of users and 31.7% of partners felt the ring (including discontinuations). In some couples, one partner reported feeling the ring whilst the other did not. For men this figure was 17.4% compared with 3.2% of women. With treatment duration, fewer couples reported always or frequently feeling the ring (3.3% at cycle 3, 2.5% at cycle 6, 1.7% at cycle 13). However, this could have been due to couples discontinuing the study if both partners could feel the ring. Of those discontinuing the study, 7.6% of couples felt the ring.

**Conclusions:** In most couples, both partners never or rarely felt NuvaRing during intercourse. More men than women felt the ring during intercourse, and in only 3.5% of couples did both partners report feeling the ring.