

## **Is user satisfaction with NuvaRing affected by feeling the ring during intercourse?**

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**Objective:** NuvaRing is a new combined contraceptive vaginal ring which can be easily inserted and removed by the woman herself. In the large clinical studies we assessed whether users could feel NuvaRing during intercourse and whether they were satisfied with the method. The aim of this analysis was to see whether there is any correlation between feeling the ring during intercourse and satisfaction with the method.

**Methods:** Data were analyzed from the large clinical studies involving 2322 women in Europe (n=1145) and North America (n=1177). Items 'satisfaction with NuvaRing' and 'could you feel the ring during intercourse?' were compared using 2x2 tables.

**Results:** The majority of women did not feel the ring during intercourse and were satisfied or very satisfied with the method (>80% for women completing the study and 52% for discontinuers). The percentage of women who always felt the ring during intercourse and were dissatisfied with the method is low (0.62% at cycle 3, 0.12% at cycle 6 and 0.27% at cycle 13). Of the 5% of women who felt the ring frequently, 40% reported that they were not satisfied with the method whilst 40% reported to be (very) satisfied. Conversely, of the women who reported being dissatisfied with NuvaRing (7.7% including discontinuations), 56% never or rarely felt the ring, whereas 25% frequently or always felt the ring. No differences were observed between Europe and North America.

**Conclusions:** Most women were satisfied with NuvaRing and did not feel the ring during intercourse. However, no clear relationship can be demonstrated between feeling the ring during intercourse and satisfaction with the method; women who felt the ring were equally satisfied and dissatisfied with NuvaRing and more dissatisfied women did not feel the ring rather than feel it. There were no differences between continents with respect to satisfaction and feeling the ring.