

History of condoms

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Abstract

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The population grew exponentially, and because there were not enough resources to support it, population management became difficult. To Control population and STDs, condoms were designed and practiced. As early as 1564, Italian anatomist Gabriello Fallopio penned what is

considered the 'a linen sheath fastened with a ribbon, offering protection against syphilis'. Now, these are widely available for men and women and are widely used. The condoms used even in ancient times were made of different materials, mostly from animal intestine. During the Renaissance period, scientific and medical knowledge developed, alongside with-it, condoms were also developed with their sophistication, with more pleasure.

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Introduction

One type of barrier contraception that also stops the spread of some sexually transmitted diseases is the condom. A condom is a thin, flexible sheath that is used during sexual activity to prevent unwanted pregnancy and protect against STIs, such as HIV/AIDS. It is usually constructed of latex, polyurethane, or polyisoprene (1). Condoms for men and women are among the most extensively available and widely used types of modern contraceptives; however, male condoms are used more frequently.

Types of condoms for males and females

Male condoms: Nowadays, there are two main kinds of condoms for men: lamb cecum and latex. Due to its lack of flexibility, the lamb cecum condoms may come loose during sexual activity or withdrawal. Lambs' cecum condoms are costlier and offer less protection against sexually transmitted diseases, despite claims that they improve body heat transmission and, thus, increase sensitivity. Due to their greater elasticity, latex condoms have a higher chance of staying on the penis during sexual activity and following withdrawal. In addition to the standard latex sheath, reservoir end, lubricated (wet and dry), spermicidal (nonoxynol 9) lubricated, thin latex, extra strength, tapered, contoured, ribbed, studded, textured interior surface, and colored are some of the other variants of condoms. Most condoms come in conventional sizes; however, Trojan Enz Larger (Carter) and Magnum (Carter) are larger than the standard size, and Hugger (Ansell) is smaller. The latest version, called Mentor (Carter), has an adhesive seal to keep it attached to the penis (2).

Female condoms: Female condoms are made up of two rings, one of which has a closed end and is joined to the other, bigger, open ring via a latex tube. To push the closed end as far into the vagina as feasible, the index finger is pushed into the closed end. Only male condoms will be the subject of this conversation (2).

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Rationale of the study

One of the most efficient and reasonably priced forms of modern contraception, condoms offer dual protection against STIs, including HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies. In many low- and middle-income nations, including Nepal, consistent and appropriate condom use is still unsatisfactory despite its demonstrated benefit. Despite their broad availability and national-level initiatives supporting modern methods, just 2% of married women in Nepal currently use male condoms as their method of contraception. Conducting a study on condom use's knowledge, attitudes, and practices will yield important information on the variables affecting its use.

Methodology: It is a narrative literature review based on the documents published on the internet and academic articles, and institutional documentation to comprehend the historical background of the condom.

History

The earliest methods of barrier contraception that men have employed are condoms or sheaths. Some claim that the first people to wear them were the ancient Egyptians [Figure 1]. Early condoms in circa 1000 BCE in Asia were made of silk paper or oiled silk, and sheaths made of leather or tortoiseshell (known as kabutogata) were employed [Figure 2]. The earliest description of the condom was by the great Italian anatomist Gabriello Fallopio in 1564, published two years after his death. According to his claims, he created a linen sheath that was tailored to the Glans and worn to prevent syphilis (3).

Colonel Quondam, an English army physician and the colonel of King Charles I (1660-1685), created the gut condom. The word condom is most likely a corruption of his name, and he gave the King tools to prevent illegitimate children. This story has been denied by most authorities. Lord Belhaven's poetry from 1706 and Daniel Turner's book from 1717 were the first to use the term condom. In 1904, Ferdy believed that the word condom originated in a French town, but a year later, he proposed that the Latin word "condus" was the word's origin. In 1911, Richter

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suggested the word's Persian origin, "Kendu" or "Kondu," which refers to a long storage vessel formed of animal intestine (1)(4).



Figure 1: Egyptian Condoms (Source: Internet)



Figure 2: Condom made from animal intestine circa (source: Internet)

Charles Goodyear created the rubber vulcanization technique in 1839, and it was patented in 1844. In 1855, the first rubber condom was created. Although they were thicker than contemporary condoms, they signaled a move away from materials derived from animals and toward industrial manufacturing (1)(3). The development of latex made it possible to create more comfortable, thinner, disposable condoms in large quantities. Condoms were sold under brand names and were widely accessible in pharmacies by the 1930s (4)(5).

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Figure 3: Modern condom (Source: Internet)

Function of a condom

As a barrier contraception, condoms keep semen from coming into contact with the opposing genitalia. Additionally, it stops the penile glans and penis shaft from coming into direct contact with the skin, as well as contact with anal, vaginal, or penile fluids. A wide variety of styles, sizes, materials, colors, textures, flavors, and scents are available for male condoms. Spermicides, specific lubricants, and reservoir tips are a few examples. The sizes of condoms range from snug to medium to large.

The purpose of reservoir tips is to facilitate ejaculate pooling. Semen may seep around the sides of condoms without reservoir tips and onto the rear of the condom.

Issues with condom use

Late applications, early removal, falling off or breakage during sexual intercourse, latex allergy, and condom reuse are examples of condom use problems(3). Both natural membrane (lambskin) and synthetic (polyurethane) condoms are options for people who are allergic to latex. However, it's important to note that natural membrane condoms do not protect against STIs as effectively as synthetic ones(1).

Conclusion

As one of the earliest and most widely available methods of barrier contraception, condoms have been an important part of human history. Their development, from the earliest silk and



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animal-skin sheaths to the contemporary latex condom, represents both the growth of technology and the shifting nature of sexual and reproductive health. Currently, available condoms also offer protection when alternative sexual practices are adopted. Certain issues with condom use include condom use errors, such as late application, early removal, slipping, and latex allergy.

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