

OPENTALK

YOU ASK. WE ANSWER.



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HEALTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
Striving for a healthy society

The Condoms of the Future



Seeing as though condoms are the most accessible and effective ways to help prevent unwanted pregnancy and STIs, we wanted to update you on the current status of condom technology.

Condom technology has basically stayed the same over the last 50 years...until now. Bill Gates, billionaire and philanthropist, has a mission to build a better condom that “significantly preserves or enhances pleasure, in order to improve uptake and regular use.” So, he created a contest to find the top 11 condom innovations that can complete his mission and gave \$100,000 in grants, to each, in order to create them. The main themes among the designs are finding a more comfortable, thinner, easier to put on, cheaper, and more effective condom.

One standout innovation is a condom made from cow tendons. The condom is inexpensive to produce because it can be made from collagen fibers in leftover beef byproducts.

Another interesting innovation is a stronger condom that starts as a standard size and shrinks to the size and shape of the penis during sex to enhance sensation and reliability.

One proposed condom design would use graphene, an unbelievably strong material, along with latex, to make a nearly indestructible condom. Graphene is roughly 100 times stronger than steel and this durability would improve the overall effectiveness of the condom. This condom would also conduct heat to further enhance safety as well as sexual experience.

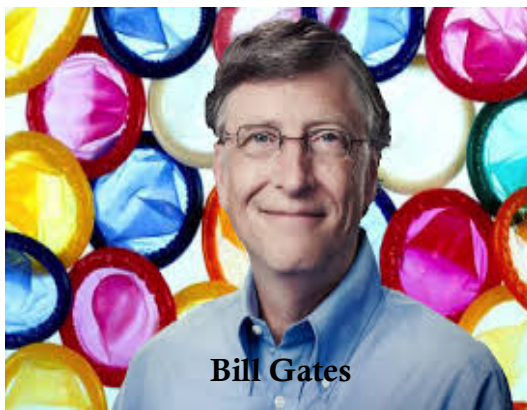
The Project Rapidom condom addresses the issue of application through the creation of a condom that can be put on more easily, quickly, and correctly.

Yet another proposes a lubricated condom that would help guard against breakage.

A final idea is a condom made from a highly elastic polymer that would have the same

texture as human skin and would allow for the production of inexpensive and super thin condoms.

These innovative designs will continue to be developed through Gates’ generosity. The new technologies promise a future of safety and improved sexual health.



Bill Gates

References

Weber, Peter. "Meet the 11 Condoms of the Future Selected by Bill Gates." *The Week*. The Week, 21 Nov. 2013. Web. 4 Dec. 2013.

You ask. We answer!

Once again, you've delighted us with the depth of curiosity exhibited in your questions. We do our best to answer your questions thoroughly and with care. Please continue to submit new questions and scenarios that you don't understand.

What is HIV/AIDS?

HIV is a virus that affects humans by damaging the immune systems. This leaves infected people vulnerable to getting sick from other illnesses. AIDS is the final stage of HIV, where the individual's immune system is destroyed.

How can a mother who is HIV positive give birth to a child who is HIV negative?

It is possible to have a baby who is HIV negative. If you become pregnant, or want to become pregnant, you should talk to a doctor. If the woman is HIV positive they can take pills throughout pregnancy that will decrease the chance that the baby will get HIV. If the male is HIV positive they can do something called sperm washing, where the HIV is removed from the sperm. Also, adoption and artificial insemination are alternatives to traditional pregnancy.

If you have sex with someone who is HIV positive, can you also get infected right away?

You can get infected right away, but you will not test positive until about 3 months later. However, you might not get HIV especially if you are wearing a condom.

If you love a girl and you ask her to have sex and she refuses does it mean she doesn't loves you?

No. It probably means she is not ready to have sex. There are a lot of different things that play a role in deciding to have sex, not just love.

Is there a vaccine for HIV?

There is currently no vaccine for HIV but there are medications that slow the progress of the disease and scientists are working on vaccine development.

Do you get infected with HIV if you kiss someone?

HIV is contracted through the transference of bodily fluids (i.e. blood, semen, etc.), but not saliva. HIV cannot be passed on through kissing.

Where can someone find condoms?

You can find condoms in pharmacies and supermarkets, but those cost money. You can find them for free at health centers. Also, some bars and clubs will have machines that will distribute them for 100RWF.

Is it possible to get pregnant if you sleep with a person without using a condom?

Yes. If you do not use a condom the semen, which causes pregnancy, will enter the female's body and if she is at the right part of her menstrual cycle, there is a high risk of pregnancy.

Are condoms harmful?

Condoms are not usually harmful, although some people might have irritation from the latex if they have sensitive skin. However, failure to use a condom could result in unwanted pregnancy or STIs. It is safer to use a condom.

References

AIDS.gov. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 9 Feb. 2012. Web. 6 Dec. 2013.



HDI has made a lot of improvements to the SHARE program to assist the Anti-AIDS clubs this year. First, each Anti-AIDS club will be assigned a “SHARE Facilitator” or a university student that will visit the clubs to provide support and answer questions. Facilitators will be in charge of giving clubs educational materials and assist in event planning and budgeting. Facilitators will work with teacher advisors. Together, they will help you do everything you need to have a successful club and great events.

We plan to print this newsletter three times a year. HDI has also updated the curriculum and devised methods to make sure you are getting all the information you need. Lastly, we will be giving you more opportunities, through surveys, to let us know how we doing so we can always progress.

Thank you for your work in the Anti-AIDS clubs. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at: info@hdirwanda.org.

Sexual Health Resources

Websites Regarding HIV/AIDS

- AIDS.gov
- AIDSinfo.nih.gov
- plannedparenthood.org

Websites Regarding Safe Sex

- plannedparenthood.org
- womanshealth.gov
- betterhealth.vic.gov
- nlm.nih.gov