

May 2018

Key messages for anticipating the results of ECHO

Developed by AVAC & FP2020;

Reviewed May 2018 with Communications Working Group

- Women and girls have a right to informed choice about the risks and benefits of all of their health-related decisions including contraceptive methods, HIV prevention and treatment strategies.
 - All women and girls must have access to the most accurate information about HIV prevention and greatest choice of contraceptives to live a healthy, happy life.
- Uncertainty about whether progestin-only contraceptives impact HIV risk has hampered program and policy development in many countries.
 - Data from some observational studies suggest that injectable methods, particularly DMPA, might increase a woman's risk of HIV, while other studies have not found that association.
- The ECHO trial results could help clarify decades of mixed data, which will be able to inform the development of responsive policies and programs that promote accurate messages needed in countries with high rates of HIV transmission.
 - Whatever the result, contraceptive options for women and girls in countries with high HIV prevalence rates should not be narrowed.
 - Any clear result from ECHO should prompt responsible action from a range of stakeholders from global normative agencies and donors to ministries of health and local health providers to communicate clearly and act responsibly to integrate high-quality family-planning and HIV services that preserve and expand women's choices of contraceptives and HIV prevention and treatment options, including new methods such as oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
 - The trial result and potential ramifications should be communicated clearly to women to help them make informed decisions about their own health.
- The only bad contraceptive choice for women and girls is no choice.