

Multinational comparative clinical trial of long-acting injectable contraceptives: norethisterone enanthate given in two dosage regimens and depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate. A preliminary report

Who special programme of research,

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A multicentre phase III clinical trial has been undertaken to compare norethisterone enanthate (NET-EN) given by two different treatment regimens and depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA). After 18 months of observation, preliminary findings are reported for 1,589 women who received DMPA 150mg every 90 days; 790 women who received NET-EN 200mg every 60 days; and 796 women who received NET-EN, 200mg every 60 days for 6 months, then 200mg every 84 days. The overall discontinuation rates per 100 women were similar for all three treatment groups over the 18 months observation (61.8-63.5 per 100 women). The discontinuation rates for bleeding

problems and for personal reasons were also similar for all three treatment groups. However, terminations due to amenorrhoea were significantly higher among DMPA users (12.1 and 17.4 per 100 women at 12 and 18 months) as compared with both NET-EN groups (6.8-8.2 per 100 women at 12 months and 10.4-10.9 per 100 women at 18 months). The only significant