

**First Once-A-Month Birth Control Option Now Available In The U.S.**

(NAPS)—One out of two women would prefer a more convenient monthly birth control method that is similar to the pill, according to a recent national survey of more than 450 women in the U.S. conducted by ACNielsen International Research.

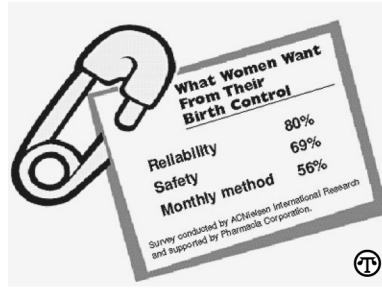
The survey also found that:

- Only 32 percent of women are currently taking the pill and 57 percent of women who used the pill have forgotten to take it.
- 80 percent of women expect their birth control to be reliable, 69 percent safe and 68 percent convenient.
- Only one out of two women talk to their physician about new birth control choices, yet a majority of women want a more reliable, safe and convenient birth control method.

The findings prompted a panel of women's health experts to urge increased access to birth control methods not tied to daily pill taking or the moment of intimacy.

On Oct. 5, 2000, the FDA approved Lunelle™ Monthly Contraceptive Injection (medroxyprogesterone acetate estradiol cypionate injectable suspension), the first and only monthly birth control option for American women. The combined hormonal injection, now available by prescription, has contraceptive benefits similar to the pill, yet offers women the convenience of once-a-month dosing.

"I think Lunelle™ is going to meet a big need for women in this country—it has contraceptive benefits similar to the pill yet is administered only once a month," said Anita Nelson, M.D., University of California Harbor Medical Center and U.S. clinical trial investigator. "It is more than 99 percent effective when administered as scheduled, offering women a reliable and convenient new birth control option."



**New contraceptive methods offer women the convenience of once-a-month dosing.**

"With my busy schedule, I find Lunelle™ more convenient than taking a pill every day. I'm out of my health care provider's office in less than 15 minutes just once a month," says Roslyn Tate, a clinical study participant, who has used the product for more than three years.

The ACNielsen survey was supported by an unrestricted grant from the Pharmacia Corporation, which manufactures Lunelle™ and Depo-Provera® Contraceptive Injection, a long-acting birth control option for women who want to postpone pregnancy.

As with other contraceptives containing a combination of estrogen and progestin, Lunelle™ is not appropriate for some women. It may be associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular side effects, which increase with heavy smoking and age, especially in women over the age of 35. Like other hormonal contraceptives, women may experience altered bleeding patterns when using the monthly injectable. The average weight gain of women in the U.S. clinical trial over one year on it was four pounds.

For more information about this monthly birth control option, please call 1-800-752-8779 or visit [www.lunelle.com](http://www.lunelle.com) or [www.birthcontrolresources.com](http://www.birthcontrolresources.com).