

Evidence at-a-glance: Acceptability



"I learnt about it and was afraid at first, contemplating if I will be able to do it. I told myself in case I get another training I will be able to do it. After another trip to another Safe Space, I gained that. When I returned to the center to be trained again, I had courage...."

—Adolescent girl, Uganda

Photo: PATH/Will Boase

Evidence at-a-glance: Spotlight on acceptability of DMPA-SC

Family planning providers and clients, including young women and older adolescent girls, like DMPA-SC.

- ▶ In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a study of community-based distribution of subcutaneous DMPA (DMPA-SC^{*}) found that more than 90% of those who accepted DMPA-SC and were interviewed three months later chose to receive a second injection.¹
- ▶ In Nepal, more than two-thirds of women selected DMPA-SC over intramuscular DMPA (DMPA-IM) when given the option. Additionally, the study found that the continuation rate for DMPA-SC (47%) was higher than for DMPA-IM (34%) at six months.²
- ▶ Acceptability studies found that of women who received DMPA-SC, 80% in Senegal and 84% in Uganda said they would select DMPA-SC over DMPA-IM if both products were available.³
- ▶ In Malawi, both clients and providers felt self-injection of DMPA-SC saved them time. The majority of client respondents stated a preference for DMPA-SC over DMPA-IM in the future, primarily due to cost and time savings, as well as the proposition of privacy and being prepared for potential stockouts.⁴
- ▶ Data from Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda show that DMPA-SC reaches new populations of women and is appealing to new users of family planning, rather than inspiring current users to switch to DMPA-SC from other methods of contraception.⁵
- ▶ In Niger, Senegal, and Uganda, 44% of women who chose to use DMPA-SC were aged 25 or younger and 12% were aged 20 or younger.⁶



Quick facts about DMPA-SC

- ✓ **99% effective** at preventing unintended pregnancy when given correctly and on time every three months. Does not protect from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.
- ✓ **Prefilled and ready to inject.**
- ✓ **Easy to use**, including by community health workers and women themselves (self-injection).
- ✓ **Small and light**, with a **short needle.**
- ✓ **Stable at room temperature** (15°C–30°C).
- ✓ **Three-year shelf life.**
- ✓ **Registered in more than 80 countries, with approval for self-injection in more than 55 countries**, including countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America, several European countries, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ✓ **Can be purchased at US\$0.85 per dose** in the standard 200-pack presentation by qualified buyers* (including ministries of health in low-income countries).

* For more information on qualified buyers and eligible countries, please contact FPoptions@path.org.

^{*} DMPA stands for depot medroxyprogesterone acetate. Sayana[®] Press is the current brand name, and a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.

- ▶ Qualitative research in Malawi suggests that men also find DMPA-SC and self-injection acceptable, with men helping their partners remember reinjection dates, acknowledging the time and cost savings of self-injection, and voicing their support for including men in DMPA-SC advocacy campaigns.⁷
- ▶ Market research in India shows that women and health care providers find DMPA-SC, including self-injection, acceptable, with 55% of women participating expressing comfort with concept of self-injection.⁸

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