

**Poster Presentation by:
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**Leveling the Playing Field One Bed at a Time:
Teaching Nurses about the Female Condom
Poster Abstract**

Purpose & Rationale:

To determine the effectiveness of a poster presentation regarding the female condom.

Research Question:

A consistent increase in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy exist in the U.S. with a cost of \$16 billion annually. Concomitantly, knowledge of an effective means of contraception, the female condom, is minimal.

Synthesis of Review of Literature:

Nurses are key educators to young women. Increasing knowledge about the female condom offers an alternative option to the male condom. Studies have shown, with the proper usage of the female condom there can be a decrease in the transmission of STIs, HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy when used with heterosexual partners. Information is not readily available about the female condom nor is it widely promoted or discussed.

Methods/Procedures:

This was an investigative pilot study; information was obtained from nursing students and professionals. The poster presentation informed attendees at an annual nursing conference about the female condom. A five question voluntary survey was given to participants after viewing the poster. Using a convenience sample, surveys were collected in a closed box and were anonymous. The attainment of consent was designed into the survey; the decision to participate served as consent in the pilot study. The study received IRB approval from the University of Hartford and support from the Institute of Community Research (ICR) in Hartford, Connecticut.

Results:

The data suggest that nurses have little knowledge of the female condom and a poster presentation is an effective tool for disseminating knowledge about the female condoms.

Discussion/Application to Practice:

The data collected can help others learn more about nurses' knowledge regarding the female condom. Sharing the findings from this study will help nursing professionals provide a valuable community resource. Hence, allowing the female condom to become a method of protecting women and decreasing the cost resulting from unprotected sex.

Key words: female condom, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), nurses, prevention