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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
SUPPLIES COALITION



THE PROGESTERONE CONTRACEPTIVE VAGINAL RING: AN OPTION FOR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN

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AVAILABILITY



QUALITY



EQUITY



CHOICE

SALUD
SECRETARÍA DE SALUD



USAID
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**POPULATION
COUNCIL**

Ideas. Evidence. Impact.

DEFINING THE UNMET NEED

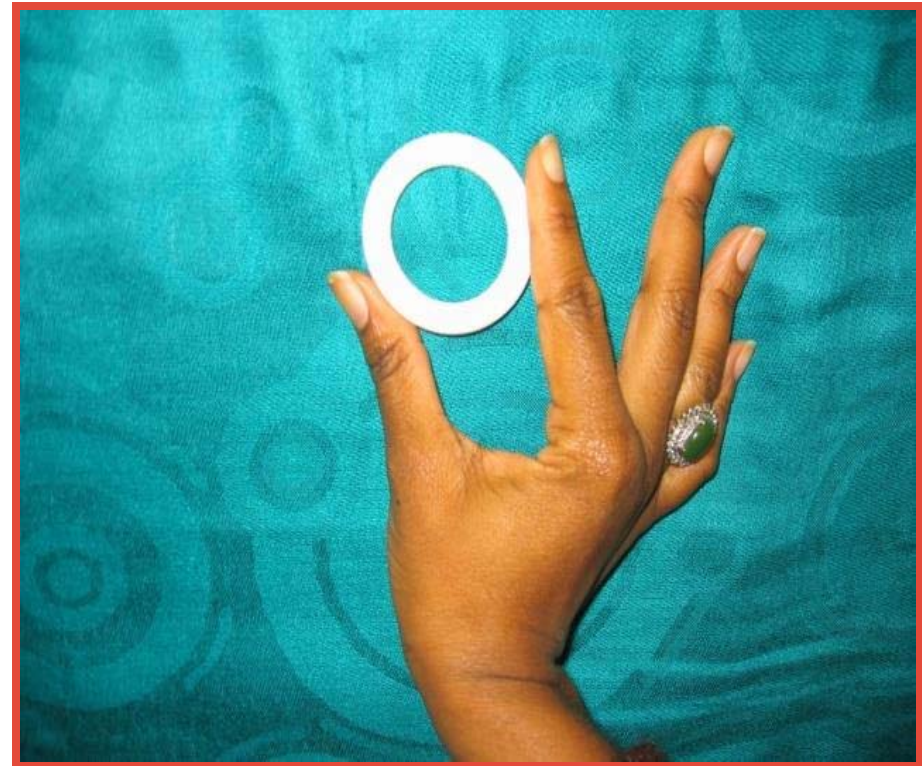
The risk of **maternal and infant morbidity and mortality** increases when the birth interval is **less than 2 years**

Contraceptive use is extremely low in the **extended postpartum period**, resulting in shorter time between pregnancies

Only about **half of pregnancies** and deliveries are attended to by skilled health care providers in **developing countries**

WHAT IS THE PROGESTERONE CONTRACEPTIVE VAGINAL RING

- A user-controlled soft, flexible ring made of silicone used continuously for three months
- Diffuses 10mg of natural progesterone per day
- Four rings can be used successively for up to 1 year postpartum



THE PCVR: HOW IT WORKS?

User can insert and remove the ring herself

Works by preventing ovulation

Extends postpartum amenorrhea
(temporary post-partum infertility)

Reinforces the inhibitory effect of breastfeeding on
ovulation



Advantages

- Safe & effective for breastfeeding women if used correctly
- User-controlled, reversible
- Natural progesterone
- Continuous release of low hormones (10mg per day)
- Very acceptable (>98.5%)*
- Limited infrastructure needed for dispensing the ring & providing counseling

Key Considerations

- Not advised if woman is breastfeeding less than 4 times/day
- Can be used for only the first year postpartum
- After that, another short- or long-acting method should be considered
- Does not protect against HIV or other sexually transmitted infections

*Population Council, data on file.

REGISTRATION AND AVAILABILITY

- Manufactured by **Grünenthal** in Chile
- Registered as **Progering®** in 8 Latin American countries:
 - Bolivia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru
- Acceptability studies ongoing in 3 African countries – Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal
- Ongoing Phase 3 clinical trials in India comparing the PVR to the IUD



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Thank you!

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Congrats RHSC on
your 10th Anniversary!