

Birth control vaccine expected within decade last graf cannot cut: [1*
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Abstract (summary)

While many laboratories are working on an anti-fertility vaccine, [Gursaran Parshad Talwar] said his institute - in the world's second most populous country after China - is "the most advanced at this stage."

Talwar said his researchers have been working on a three-dose vaccine boosted every six to eight months that prevents the fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.

Full Text

MONTREAL - A long-acting vaccine that will protect women against unwanted pregnancy without disrupting their menstrual cycle will probably see the light of day during this decade, a researcher predicted Tuesday.

"In the 1970s, reproductive immunology was a fantasy. Now there are two journals, a (professional) association and many labs working on it," Gursaran Parshad Talwar, director of India's National Institute of Immunology, told a media briefing at a conference on biotechnology.

While many laboratories are working on an anti-fertility vaccine, Talwar said his institute - in the world's second most populous country after China - is "the most advanced at this stage."

Unlike the birth control pill, a vaccine would have the advantage of not requiring daily or monthly attention by women or health professionals and of not disturbing the body's hormonal balance.

Talwar said his researchers have been working on a three-dose vaccine boosted every six to eight months that prevents the fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.

Canada's International Development Research Centre has contributed between \$100,000 and \$200,000 every year since 1976 to the institute's work on the contraceptive, said Talwar. The research is also funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Indian government.

Early versions of the vaccine have been found to be safe, effective and reversible in tests on animals and in small

trials on humans carried out in India and several other countries.

"We're on the right road, but we're not there yet," Talwar said. "If everything goes well, there will be a vaccine before the end of the decade."

Credit: CP

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