Prevention: Spinning Beyond Latex and Gels

March 21, 2013 By Benjamin Ryan

Searching beyond the realm of latex and gels, scientists at the University of Washington in Seattle have developed an electrically spun cloth that can create both a chemical and a physical barrier against sperm and HIV in a laboratory setting. Publishing their findings in the journal PLOS ONE, the researchers used a technique known as electrospinning to create a stretchy mesh fabric that they then infused with antiretrovirals. The mesh can be manufactured to dissolve in minutes or over a few days and can be inserted into the vagina, either on its own or as a coating on a vaginal ring or other devices. This new technique potentially offers women a new, discrete way to protect themselves against pregnancy and infection with HIV as well as other sexually transmitted infections, both viral and bacterial. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has given the research team a nearly $1 million grant to support further research.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.
http://beta.docker.poz.com/article/HIV-prevention-electrospinning-23683-5521