

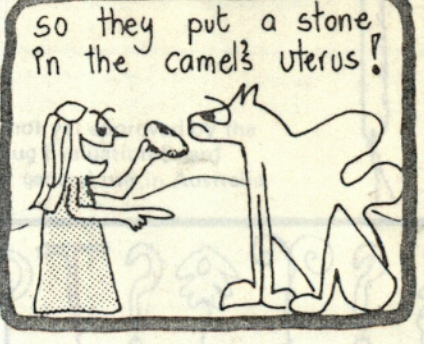
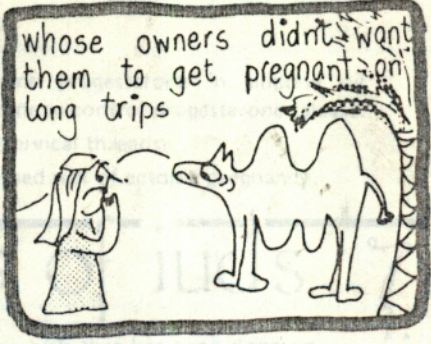
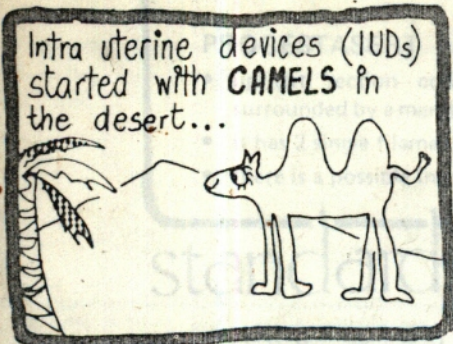
the Leichhardt women's community health centre guide to IUDs

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IUDs

intra uterine device

a free women's health centre funded by the Australian and N.S.W. Depts. of Health

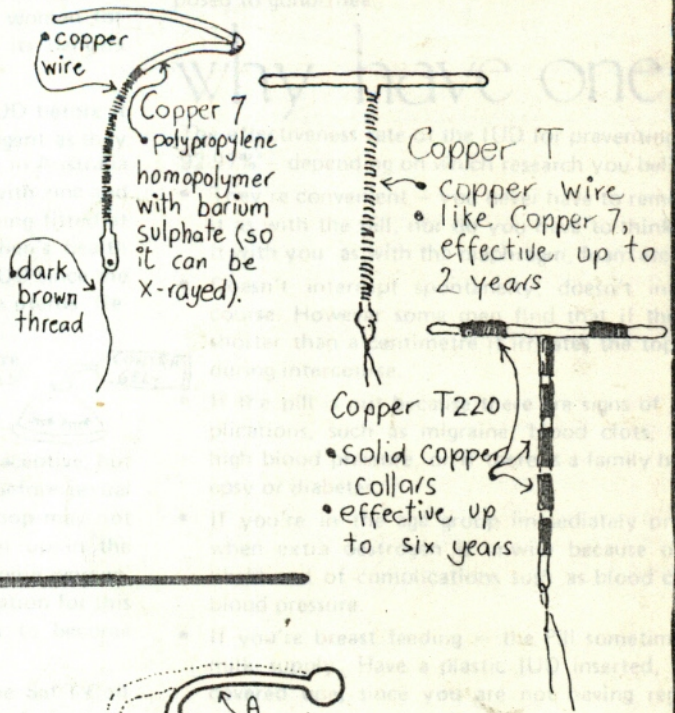


There are several kinds of IUD (intra-uterine device) in use. The Lippes Loop, the Copper 7 and the Copper T are a few of them. Some are made of an inert substance which provokes a reaction in the uterus (plastic, stainless steel); others

release substances which change the lining of the uterus (copper, progesterone). The most commonly used IUDs are shown below.

COPPER 7 and COPPER T

- needs to be replaced after two years since copper gets coated with calcium from menstrual blood and this cuts down its effectiveness as a contraceptive.
- suitable only for women with regular periods since copper builds up in uterine lining if it is not regularly shed with your menstrual blood.
- Copper causes melanaldehyde to form in cervical mucus. Melanaldehyde is known to be carcinogenic and mutagenic. There is a possible increased risk of uterine cancer or cervical cancer by implication but no research to verify this has been done so far. We recommend an annual pap smear.
- effective immediately as a contraceptive but allow 48 hours before intercourse because of the risk of infection of your uterus.



LIPPES LOOP

- comes in four sizes.
- A: for women who haven't been pregnant. 2 blue strings.
- B: for women with a small uterus or who have had miscarriages. 2 black threads.
- C: used if size D causes bleeding or pain. 2 yellow threads.
- D: for women with one or more pregnancies, largest. 2 white strings.

