Amphora, produced by Evofem Inc., was approved by the FDA in 2004 for use as a personal lubricant. In early testing Amphora, which is non-hormonal, showed promise as a contraceptive gel through its ability to immobilize sperm and to prevent certain sexually transmitted infections.

Amphora currently is being tested in the largest global contraceptive clinical trial, which began in April 2011 and will be completed in 2014.

Amphora works as a contraceptive by maintaining a low vaginal pH that creates a hostile environment to sperm.

Amphora uses lactic acid to maintain the acidic pH in the vagina, which inhibits the sperm, preventing conception. Contraception is achieved without the use of other chemicals such as nonoxynol-9, hormones or latex products.

The three-year clinical trial will compare the effectiveness of Amphora with FDA-approved Conceptrol that contains nonoxynol-9, its active ingredient.

The clinical trial has 3,200 women enrolled with participants from Russia and the United States of various ethnicities. The main targeted group is aged 18-35 and there is a subset group that is 35-45.

In the current trial, women use Amphora at least one hour before sex. The results from the study will be evaluated establishing a longer usage window.

Read the full article online at www.empowher.com.