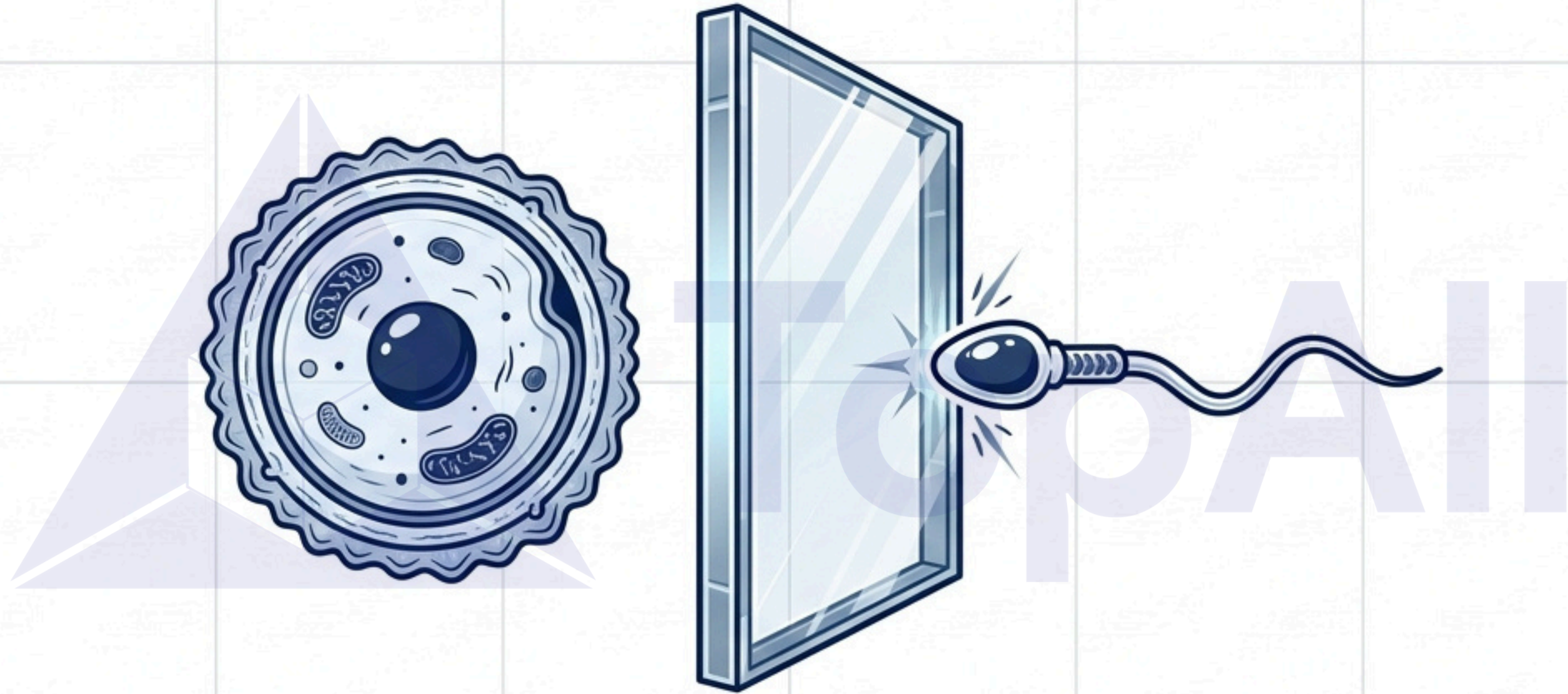


Barrier Methods: Physical Block Against Fertilisation

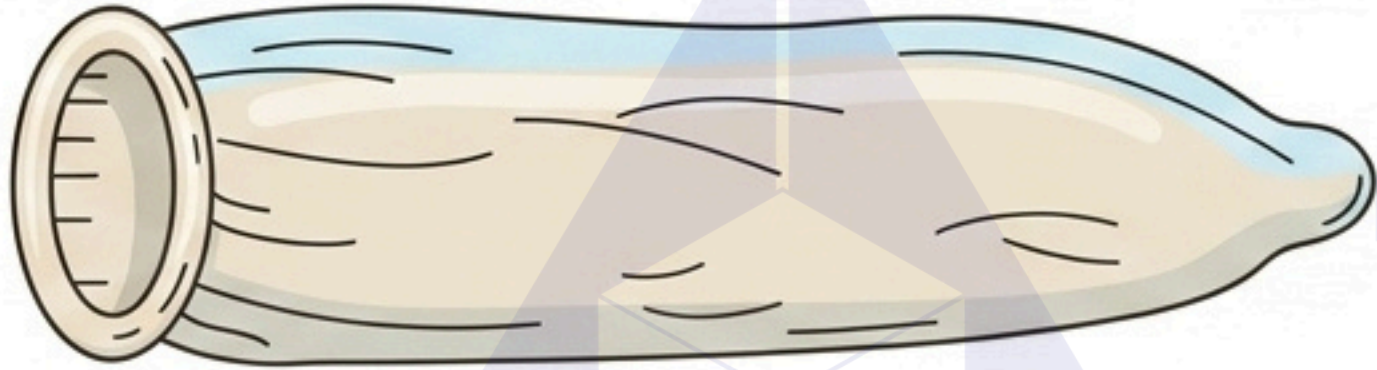
Class 12 Biology NEET Revision Matrix (Section 4.2)

The Core Principle: Physical Separation



Barrier methods physically prevent the ovum and sperm from meeting. Crucially, these methods exist for both males and females.

Condoms: The Primary Barrier



Male Condom: A thin rubber/latex sheath that covers the penis.

Quick Tip

Brand Highlight: Nirodh is a popular brand of male condom in India.



Female Condom: A thin rubber/latex sheath that lines the vagina and cervix.

Application: Applied just before coitus so the ejaculated semen does not enter the female reproductive tract.



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Why Condom Use Has Risen Sharply



Disposable

Single-use nature ensures hygiene.



Self-Insertable

Does not require a medical professional.



Privacy

Self-insertion gives maximum privacy to the user.



STI/AIDS Protection

The only method offering this critical dual benefit.

Diaphragms, Cervical Caps & Vaults



Condoms

Diaphragms / Caps

Material

Latex / Thin Rubber

Thick Rubber

Usage

Single-use / Disposable

Reusable

Target User

Male & Female

Female only

Spermicides: The Efficiency Multiplier



Physical Barrier



Spermicidal
Cream/Jelly/Foam



Enhanced
Contraceptive
Efficiency



Common Mistake: Spermicides are adjuncts, not stand-alone methods. They are used specifically along with female physical barriers to increase overall contraceptive efficiency.

High-Yield NEET Recall



Key Takeaway: Condoms are the **ONLY** contraceptive method that provides **dual protection**: they reliably prevent pregnancy while **simultaneously protecting** the user against **STIs and AIDS**.



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