

This letter gives information about condoms.

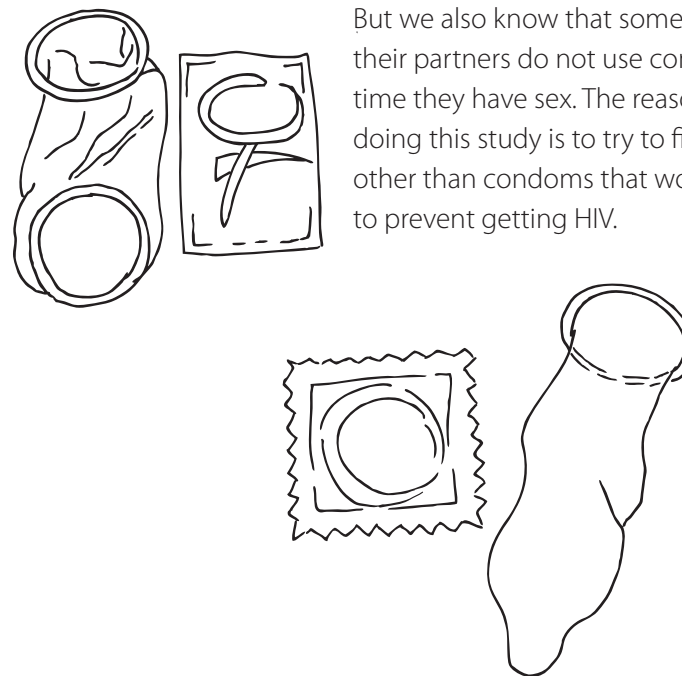
Using condoms consistently and correctly is the best way for women to protect themselves from getting HIV through sex. Because of this, women who join research studies that are testing new products are given condoms and counseled to use them every time they have sex. Counselors make every effort to help women understand that they must not rely on the new product that is being tested to protect themselves from getting HIV.

People often ask, how can researchers learn if a new product prevents getting HIV if women in the research study are counseled to use condoms? This letter gives some answers to that question.

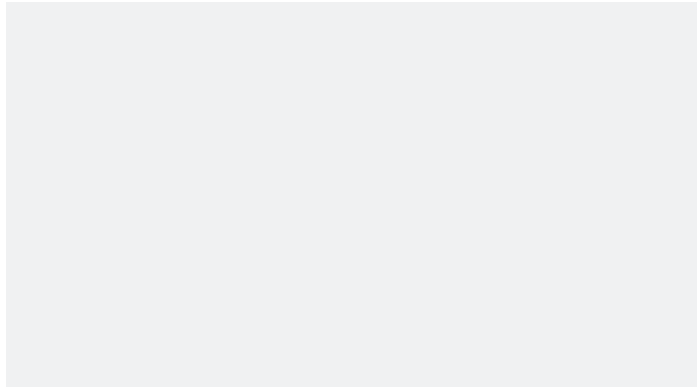


The VOICE Study is testing a gel that is inserted in the vagina, and tablets that are taken by mouth, to see if these products may prevent getting HIV. It is true that if women in this research study used condoms every time they have sex, it will be impossible to test if the gel or tablets prevent getting HIV. However, even with counseling and free condoms, some women and their partners do not use condoms every time they have sex. This research study will test whether the gel or tablets prevent women from getting HIV in sex acts when condoms are not used. This is why women in the research study are asked questions about their sexual activity, use of condoms, and use of gel or tablets. At the end of the research study, the researchers will put this confidential information together to learn whether the gel or tablets helped prevent women from getting HIV.

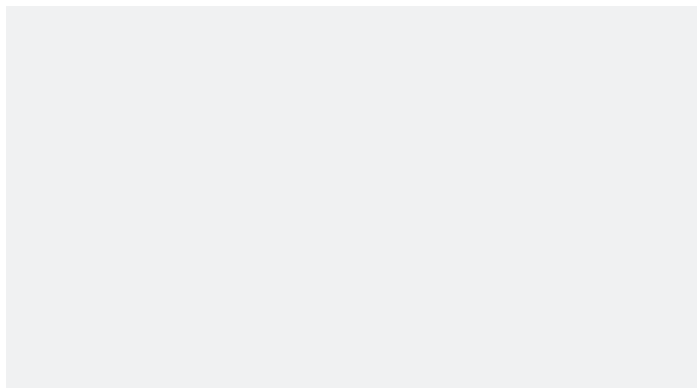
We know that condoms prevent getting HIV when used correctly and consistently. But we also know that some women and their partners do not use condoms every time they have sex. The reason we are doing this study is to try to find products other than condoms that women can use to prevent getting HIV.



*To learn more about the research study,
you may visit the study clinic at:*



You may also contact:



The **VOICE** Study

Information about Condom Use

