

## **This letter gives information about a research study.**

**T**he research study is for women, but the researchers doing the study would like the community to know about the study. Also, some women have said they want their community members to have information about the studies they are involved in.

You probably know that many people are getting sick with HIV/AIDS. Although medicines can help people with HIV/AIDS feel better and live longer, there is no cure as of today. Therefore, researchers are trying to find ways to prevent people from getting HIV.

Researchers are doing a study to test if gel inserted in the vagina, or tablets taken by mouth, may prevent women from getting HIV. The gel is called Tenofovir gel. The tablets are called Tenofovir tablets and Truvada tablets. As of today, no gels or tablets have been shown to prevent getting HIV, but researchers are trying to find products that will work.

Women will be in the research study for 1-3 years, depending on when they join. During this time, they will visit the clinic every month. At clinic visits, women will answer questions and have physical examinations and laboratory tests to check on their health, including tests for pregnancy and HIV.

Some women in the research study will be given gel to insert in the vagina every day. Other women will be given two tablets to take by mouth every day. To properly test if the gel or tablets prevent getting HIV, it is very important that women in the research study attend clinic visits and use their gel or tablets every day.

Remember, it is not known if the gel or tablets being tested in this research study prevent getting HIV. To prevent getting HIV, women in the study

are counseled to use condoms every time they have sex. Counseling and condoms are given at every clinic visit.

Women in the research study can bring their partners to the clinic to learn more about the research study and to have counseling and testing for HIV. Partners can also receive tests and treatment for other infections passed during sex.

Women who join the research study must never share their gel or tablets with anyone else. This is very important for the safety of people who are not getting health checks from the study staff.

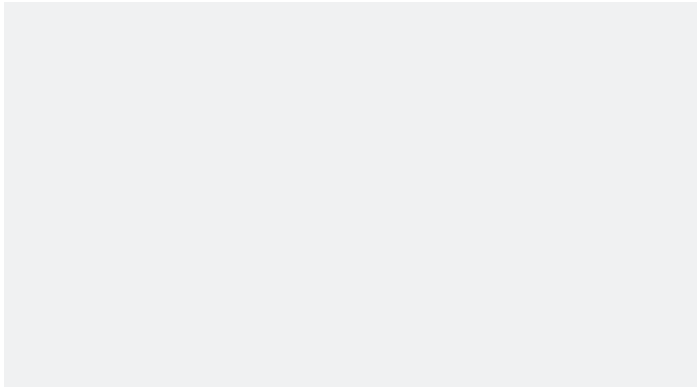
Some women who wish to join the research study may be eligible, and some may not. For women who are eligible, deciding whether to join the research study is an individual choice. Women who decide to join the research study are helping to find ways to fight HIV/AIDS. We hope that community members will understand this and be supportive of them. By being

supportive, community members are also helping to fight HIV/AIDS.

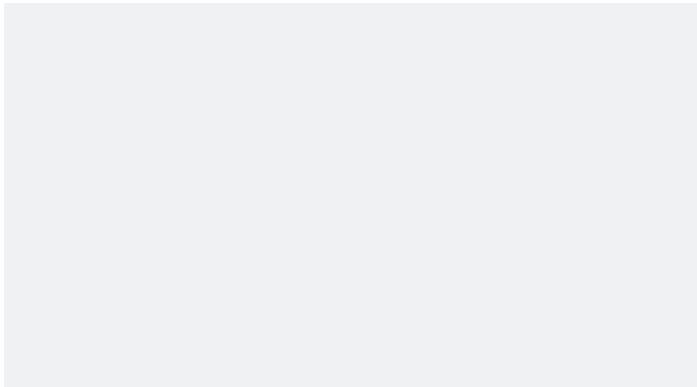


Study staff will keep all information about women in the research study confidential. However, study staff are available to talk about the research study and discuss any questions you may have. Study staff are also available to discuss anything you may have heard about the research study that causes you concern.

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



*You may also contact:*



# The **VOICE** Study

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Information for the Community

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