

The VOICE Study

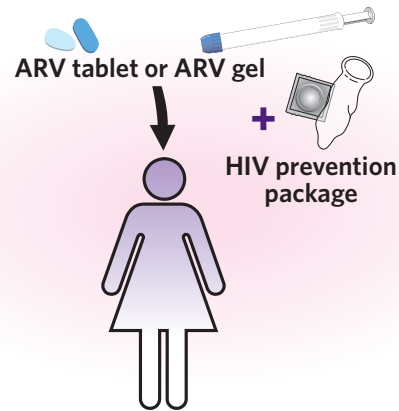
Testing ARVs to Prevent HIV

Taking Precautions to Avoid Resistance

What does VOICE aim to do?

Prevent HIV

- The VOICE Study will work to reduce the risk of HIV infection in all women who participate.
- Reducing the risk of HIV also reduces the risk of resistance, because resistance is possible only if a person is infected with HIV.

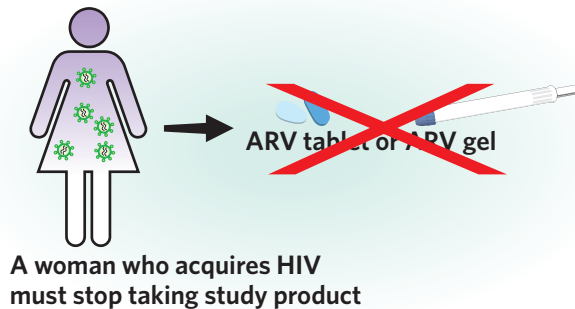


The VOICE Study is testing whether daily use of a tablet or a gel containing an antiretroviral (ARV) drug can prevent HIV in women. All women in the study receive a comprehensive prevention package, with free condoms, risk-reduction counseling, HIV testing, and other provisions, throughout the trial.

What if a woman acquires HIV?

Avoid Resistance

- Women are tested for HIV at every monthly visit. If a test indicates a woman has acquired HIV, she will immediately stop taking study product.
- These and other safeguards in VOICE are intended to minimize the potential for drug resistance.



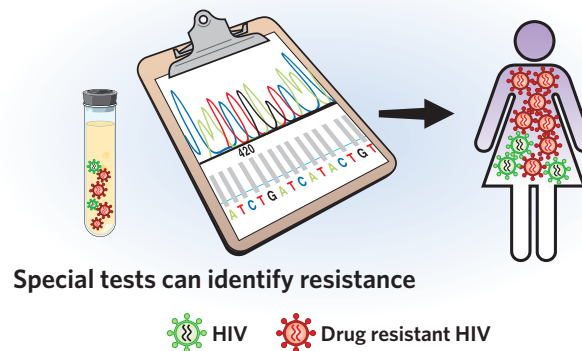
Despite the study's intensive efforts, a woman may acquire HIV from her sex partner. If this happens, staff will immediately stop her use of study product, because its continued use can increase the chance that virus will become resistant to the drug.

Staff will provide counseling and refer her to appropriate care and support, including antiretroviral therapy (ART), if she needs it. ART is the standard treatment for HIV and consists of at least three ARV drugs.

What if resistance happens?

Manage Resistance

- Women who test positive for HIV during VOICE will be monitored for resistance so that if identified, it can be managed appropriately by those treating her infection.



Resistance to one ARV does not reduce the effectiveness of all ARVs. Most types of resistance can be managed by stopping or avoiding the ineffective ARV and using a different combination of drugs.

VOICE and similar studies will help better understand resistance when ARVs are used for HIV prevention.