

MTN-024/IPM 031 In-Depth Interview (IDI) Guide
Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview. Let's begin.
HIV Risk Perception and Motivation for joining the study
First we are going to talk about joining the study and your feelings about HIV.
<p>1. What made you decide to join the study? <i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services or benefits received for participating in trial • Aspects of participant's personal life • Aspects of the community/the place where the participant lives • Worries and concerns about HIV • Altruism • Interest/curiosity about the ring • Financial Incentives
<p>2. What encouraged you to stay involved in the study? <i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study staff • Interest • Altruism • Services or Benefits
Product attributes
Next we are going to talk about the ring itself. We will discuss how the ring looks and feels and then your experience using it.
<p>3. How would you describe your reaction when you saw the ring for the first time? <i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did feeling about the ring change over time • Any changes after touching or holding the ring • Any changes after first insertion • Any changes after having used the ring for a while
<p>4. Please describe how the ring felt inside of your body? <i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling upon initial insertion and once inside • How aware of the ring participant was, circumstances or situations she felt more or less aware of the ring • Any changes in participant's body while using ring (incontinence, vaginal dryness, discomfort during intercourse?)

5. What did you like about the ring? What did you dislike? Why?

Possible probing topics:

- Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)
- Convenience/ease of use (or lack thereof)
- Dosing (e.g. continuous use, episodic use)
- Touching one's genitals for insertion/removal
- Concerns about hygiene
- Partner's reaction and attitude
- What do you like and dislike most about the ring?

USE ATTRIBUTES

6. Please tell me about your experience using the ring.

Possible probing topics:

- Experience of insertion, removal, or ring placement
- Perception of how participant is supposed to be using the ring
- Comfort or concerns with ring cleanliness/ hygiene while wearing the ring (continuously)
- Ease/ difficulty keeping ring inserted between visits
- Experience with side effects as well as benefits from using the ring

7. Other than the times you were asked to remove the ring by study staff, did you ever remove the ring? Did it ever come out on its own, either partially or fully?

Possible probing topics:

- When and how often did it happened
- Focusing on a specific event, discuss the situation and circumstances when it came out or was removed, what the participant did about it
- [If re-inserted] the participant's experience inserting the ring outside of the clinic setting, including whether it was cleaned and how
- Was there any time in the study when she would have liked to stop using the ring (or did)? Why? What happened?

8. Tell me about a specific time when you had a problem with the ring [other than it coming out or you taking it out].

Possible probing topics:

- When the problem happened
- Circumstances surrounding problem
- Persons or people associated with the problem
- If and how problem was resolved

ATTITUDE of Partner and other Social Contacts

We now are going to discuss the reactions of other people in your life to the ring.

9. Who have you told about using the ring?

Possible probing topics:

- Primary sex partner, other partners, family members, friends, anyone else- what were their reactions
- Reasons for disclosure and nondisclosure
- How people found out, what was said, reactions, and the participant's feelings about the disclosure

10. What was your sex partner's opinion of the ring?

Possible probing topics:

- Partner's feelings about ring use, likes, dislikes, concerns/worries for herself/himself, for the participant, or for the relationship
- Level of support for ring use by primary sex partner
- Disagreements/conflicts around ring use, including circumstances and resolution
- If multiple partners, opinion of other partners
- If it would be possible to use the ring without your partner knowing? Reasons for telling or not telling a partner
- Partner's potential/actual reactions to using the ring without telling him
- Feelings about the importance of involving male partners in decisions to use the ring and suggestions for engaging men (if applicable)

EFFECTS ON SEXUAL ENCOUNTER

These next questions will ask about your sexual activity and how the ring may have influenced your activity.

11. Can you tell me about your sexual activity before using the ring?

Possible probing topics:

- Type or number of sexual partners, frequency of sex, reasons for having sex, etc.
- Anything that you noticed upon experiencing menopause?
- Changes in desire
- Changes in arousal
- Changes in ability to climax
- Any pain during sex
- Any aspect of your sexual life that you were dissatisfied or disappointed with?
- If partner has any issues with sexual performance
- Partner or self ever take medication for sexual performance?

12. How would you say the ring influenced your sexual activity?

Possible probing topics:

- Feeling/being aware of the ring during sex and changes in how the vagina feels
- Physical or emotional changes with sex for her, for her partner
- Changes in sexual behaviors practiced, sexual positions, type or number of sexual partners, frequency of sex, reasons for having sex, etc.
- Ring effect on partner: his/her sexual experience/the sexual relationship

Product Associated Norms

Next we will discuss other vaginal products and forms of HIV prevention.

13. What products or things do women you know typically use in their vagina?

Possible probing topics:

- How similar or different are these products from the study ring?
- What would other women you know think of the study ring?
- How ring might interfere with these products or vaginal practices women engage in?

Compare with Condom Use

14. How does the ring compare with other products you have used to prevent HIV? *Possible probing topics:*

- Ever used male/female condoms for HIV prevention
Ring compared to male or female condoms
- Compared to gels/other products used in HIV clinical trials
- Comfort or sensation with use, such as how natural/unnatural it feels
- How disruptive or discreet it is, how much it interferes with sex, life, or regular activities compared to other methods
- What would you prefer to use for HIV prevention: condom or ring? Why is that? How about your partner? Why?
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Recommendations about study and ring

Now, let's discuss recommendations you may have about the study and the ring.

15. How could we have improved your experience using the ring?

Possible probing topics:

- Aspects of the instructional materials, or how the instructions were provided
- Dosing (episodic vs. continuous use)/frequency of replacement
- Changes in design of ring: physical characteristics, insertion or removal method
- Changes in ring function: multi-purpose use (i.e. pregnancy or other STI prevention)

16. If the ring is found to protect from HIV, do you think that women you know would use it for HIV prevention? What about you?

Possible probing topics:

- Issues around access, storage, disposal, discreetness, concerns or issues with short term vs. long term use on health
- Concerns or issues with hygiene
- Who do you think would be interested in using a vaginal ring for HIV prevention?
- Who would not want to use it?
- Do you think women of your generation are concerned about HIV risk?
- Do you think women's risk for HIV changes as they get older?
- Impact of community or others individuals' feelings about the ring

Final Comments

17. We have talked about many things today. Before we finish, do you have any questions for me or additional comments about your experience in the study or the discussion today?

Thank you for your time and your input. We appreciate your participation in this interview and the study in general.