





## WITS RHI ASPIRE QUALITATIVE COMPONENT: UPDATES AND EMERGING THEMES



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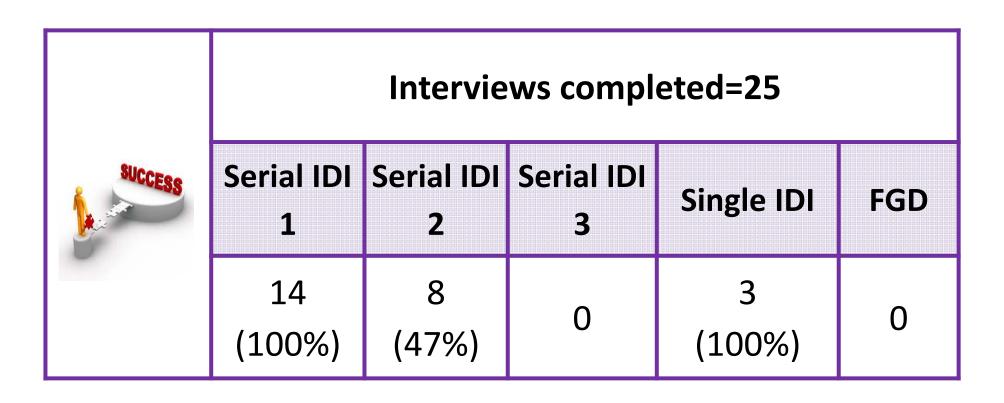
MTN Regional Meeting 2014
The Westin Cape Town Hotel, South Africa
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#### PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Qualitative component Progress
- Impact of ring use perceptions adherence and other procedures
- Ring acceptability
- Social Harms
- Misunderstanding of adherence
- Misunderstanding of rings mechanism of action
- Side effects associated with contraception use and swapping
- Study visits
- Seroconversion during study participation



### **QUALITATIVE COMPONENT PROGRESS**





# IMPACT OF PERCEPTIONS OF RING USE ON ADHERENCE AND OTHER PROCEDURES

- Weight gain
- Bloating
- Perceived protection
- Disbelief around placebo ring
- Ring use causes ringworm
- Ring prolongs menses
- Vagina overloaded
- Medication in ring treats smelly discharge



#### RING ACCEPTABILITY

#### **Positive perceptions**



- ☐ Liked the ring rubber-like, flexible and small
- Ring is different from other HIV prevention methods
- Ring improves sexual intercourse



#### RING ACCEPTABILITY

#### **Negative Perceptions**



- The size of the ring is too big
- Size of ring should be reduced
- Ring causes smelly brown discharge



### **SOCIAL HARM**

#### Physical abuse

- Disclosure physical abuse
- Non-disclosure physical abuse
- Partner accuse ppts of infidelity





## MISUNDERSTANDING OF ADHERENCE



- Randomization
- Active ring and placebo ring



# MISUNDERSTANDING OF RINGS MECHANISM OF ACTION

- Ring can prevent pregnancy
- Chemical inside the active ring destroys HIV
- Ring can prevent HIV and STI
- Medication inside the ring weakens infections



# CONTRACEPTION USE AND SWAPPING: SIDE EFFECTS

Injectables: Depo Provera and Nur-Istrate		<ul><li>Weight gain, menstruation stops and affect fertility</li><li>Prolongs menses</li></ul>
Oral pills	Control of the same of the sam	Causes nausea
IUCD		<ul><li>Causes pains to partner</li><li>Causes heavy menstrual flow</li></ul>

### **STUDY VISITS**

- Clinic flow
- □ Prefer to change ring after 3 months
- □ Some ppts come in late and expect to be seen quickly
- Stage of the study





# SEROCONVERSION DURING STUDY PARTICIPATION

- ☐ HIV will be resolved and will resume ring use.
- Ring couldn't protect against HIV but can prevent pregnancy
- Ppts did not blame the study or the ring





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