

WITS RHI ASPIRE QUALITATIVE COMPONENT: UPDATES AND EMERGING THEMES



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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

Interviews completed=25					
	Serial IDI	Serial IDI	Serial IDI	Single IDI	FGD
	1	2	3		
	14 (100%)	8 (47%)	0	3 (100%)	0

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 style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Weight gain, menstruation stops and affect fertility<input type="checkbox"/> Prolongs menses
Oral pills		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Causes nausea
IUCD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Causes pains to partner<input type="checkbox"/> Causes heavy menstrual flow

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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