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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviews completed=25</th>
<th>Serial IDI 1</th>
<th>Serial IDI 2</th>
<th>Serial IDI 3</th>
<th>Single IDI</th>
<th>FGD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 (100%)</td>
<td>8 (47%)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3 (100%)</td>
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</tbody>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injectables: Depo Provera and Nur-Istrate</th>
<th>- Weight gain, menstruation stops and affect fertility&lt;br&gt;- Prolongs menses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral pills</td>
<td>- Causes nausea</td>
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<tr>
<td>IUCD</td>
<td>- Causes pains to partner&lt;br&gt;- Causes heavy menstrual flow</td>
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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
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ASPIRE Participants
- FHI 360
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- Wits RHI team

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