

**Why is adherence so important if I choose the ring in HOPE?** High adherence was essential in ASPIRE to test whether the dapivirine ring could protect women from HIV. In HOPE, high adherence is important because it impacts your personal level of HIV protection.

**If I use the ring all the time, what level of protection will I have?** We know that protection from HIV is highest when the ring is used all the time, and that the ring offers no protection if it is not used. It is important to know that if you wear the ring most of the time, but it is not in place when you are exposed to HIV (for example, you take it out when you have sex), you may not be protected. When researchers first announced the ASPIRE results, they had not yet looked at how adherence to the ring impacted its effectiveness. They now have had time to explore this question. New information from ASPIRE indicates that when the ring is used most of the time, protection from HIV could be 75% or higher, and when used all of the time, protection could be over 90%. Results from HOPE will help researchers understand even more clearly what level of protection the ring provides when used all of the time.

**Why is adherence important for the HOPE study overall?** High adherence among women who choose the ring will allow us to understand more about the efficacy of the ring when used all the time. This information is important to know for potential future introduction of the ring in the community.

**What will happen if I have challenges to using the ring in HOPE?** HOPE study staff want you to create an HIV prevention plan that fits your life. If you choose the ring but find that you have trouble using it, counsellors will help support you in overcoming any challenges. Even if you decide not to use the ring, or if you change your mind about ring use, counsellors will help support any HIV prevention plan you choose.



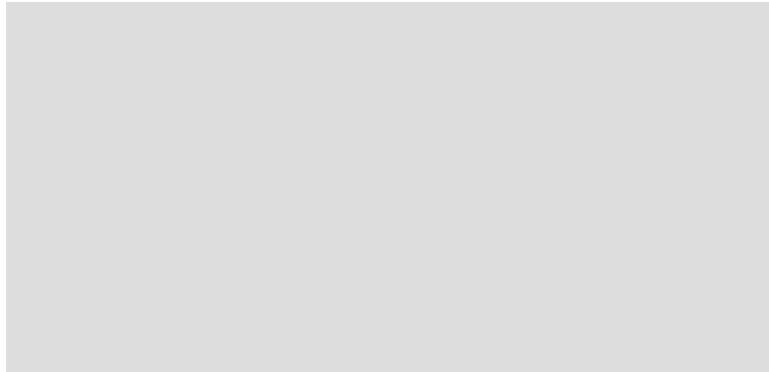
**What if my friend or family member wants to use the ring?** For now, the ring is only available for women who are HOPE participants. It is important not to share the ring or give it away. Women who are not in the study may not get regular HIV or pregnancy testing, or regular medical care. If they use the ring and develop problems, they may not have access to the care they need. The ring can only protect you from HIV if you are using it at all times, which means not giving it to others.

**Will participants who had low adherence in ASPIRE be allowed to join HOPE?** All former ASPIRE participants will be offered the opportunity to join HOPE. We are grateful to all the ASPIRE participants who helped us show that the ring was safe and helps reduce HIV risk. We recognize that some participants experienced challenges using the ring or may have even chosen not to use it. In HOPE, we feel that all former participants deserve a ‘fresh start’ and the opportunity to reduce their HIV risk as much as possible. Therefore, we want to provide all former participants access to the ring and other study benefits.

**Is the ring equally effective for women of all ages?** In ASPIRE, women younger than 21 years old who were assigned to the dapivirine ring got HIV at the same rate as women assigned to the placebo ring. However, we know that the biggest factor limiting the dapivirine ring’s effectiveness for young women in ASPIRE was inconsistent use. Researchers are doing specific studies to confirm if any other factors might impact the effectiveness of the ring in younger women. It is important to note that all women who participated in ASPIRE will be older than 21 years old by the time they join HOPE. It is up to us as study staff, participants, and the community, to engage and support young women in meaningful ways so that they can access and consistently use effective HIV prevention methods that suit their lives.



If you have questions or need more information, please visit the study clinic:



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## Adherence & HIV Protection in HOPE

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