

What is the purpose of the HOPE study?

The primary purpose of the HOPE study is to offer participants immediate access to a safe and effective dapivirine vaginal ring (“the ring”) as an HIV prevention option. We want to understand why participants may choose the ring as an HIV prevention method or not, and whether preferences change over time.

How is HOPE different from ASPIRE?	
ASPIRE	HOPE
Purpose: To determine whether the ring was effective and safe for HIV prevention.	Purpose: To understand if women will use the ring, when given the opportunity.
Tested the safety of the ring	We know the ring is very safe
Tested if the ring can prevent HIV infection	We know the ring can reduce a woman’s chance of HIV infection
Half the women received rings with study drug and half received rings without study drug	All rings contain the study drug
All participants had to agree to use the ring	Ring use is an individual choice for each participant!
...	...

So you are saying women have a choice to use the ring in HOPE?

Yes. Women can join the study whether or not they choose the ring as a prevention method. All participants receive the same benefits from study participation, regardless of ring choice. Because participants have a choice, we ask that participants only take the ring if they want to use it. Participants can also change their mind about ring use throughout the study.



Since ASPIRE showed that the ring is safe and effective, why are you giving HOPE participants the choice not to use it? HOPE is about understanding *if and how* women will use the ring now that it is known to be safe and effective. We know that condoms are safe and effective, but still many people choose not to use them or find them difficult to use. We understand a lot about why people do or do not use condoms and we want to gather similar information about the ring. Some participants may prefer not to use the ring, but still contribute to the study by

discussing what makes the ring difficult to use or undesirable to them. HIV prevention needs and preferences may also change for a participant over time.

Ultimately, we want each woman to understand her risk for HIV, all the HIV prevention options that are available to her, and choose the method(s) that fit well in her life.

HOPE site staff and community team members can work with participants to help them determine and understand their HIV risk. We want women to feel free to choose the ring or not, and to change their minds, without judgement from staff or other participants.

Do women who join HOPE but don’t choose the ring really contribute anything to the study?

All participants who join HOPE contribute valuable information to the study, whether or not they choose the ring. Feedback from all participants will help improve our understanding of the ring and how to help women use the ring successfully in the future.





CHOICE IN THE HOPE STUDY

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

