Key recent adherence strategies
- Milestone events
- DSMB Outcome dissemination sessions to ppts

Other adherence strategies
- DSMB Outcome dissemination to male partners, CAB & community contact persons
- Close monitoring of suspected non-adherers

Impact of recent strategies
Mile Stone Events

- Variation in participant engagement
- Groups of 25 to 50 ppts
- Fun based activities aimed at
  - promoting/maintaining adherence
  - celebrating retention milestones
  - reducing staff & participant fatigue
  - strengthening rapport between staff & participants
  - forum for risk reduction and FP messages
Self help talk – economic empowerment, anger management

Ice breakers

Fun based adherence activities
Fun-based Adherence activities – varying themes

- Ppts & staff instructed to write or draw about a given topic
Fun-based Adherence activities cont’d

- Staff and participants encouraged to share
Missed opportunity activity

- PPts & staff instructed to think of the biggest opportunity they have ever missed.
- Most missed opportunities were around education due to early orphan hood (HIV) & teenage pregnancies – tearful moments.
- Facilitator points emphasizes that all is not lost as long as we are healthy and alive.
- An effective HIV intervention can help us remain healthy.
- Mentions the missed opportunity due to non-adherence in some previous PrEP studies.
- Need to utilize opportunity of ASPIRE to demonstrate whether the ring works or not by adhering to study product.
Thanks giving activity

- Celebration of recovery of ppt following a 7 year battle against misdiagnosed Chiari II Malformation associated with Syringomyelia
Testimonies from PLWA

- Coming to terms with the diagnosis
- Living with HIV pre-HAART
- Participation in research
- Life on HAART
- Importance of adherence
Mile Stone Events cont’d

Events are crowned up with

- Music & dancing
- Lunch & drinks
- Cutting of the cake
Session Objectives

- Study objectives
- Update of DSMB outcome & study timelines
- Appreciate ppt contribution to the study & emphasize our expectations in remaining part of the study – retention & adherence
- Share recent PK data
- HIV risk reduction messages
Participants’ questions
“What next for participants after ASPIRE?”

“How will the ring reach the communities?”
Participants’ suggestions

- Termination of non-adherers
- Some ppts remained behind & volunteered names of suspected non-adherers at the end of the session
“We as women can only achieve our dreams if we stay healthy & alive..... there is Hope”. “One year is not a long time, let’s fight to the end”.

“No woman would love to die and leave their child (ren) behind, we can minimize this by finding an HIV prevention method...”

“It will be unfortunate if one got infected, only to be told at the end of the study that she was in active arm & had a chance of being protected if she had used the ring... she would not only have ruined her own chance but the chance for all other women who need a prevention method”.
Other Adherence strategies

- Male involvement workshops including DSMB outcome dissemination
- DSMB outcome dissemination session to CAB
- DSMB outcome dissemination session to contact persons
- One-on-one close follow-up of suspected non-adherers
Impact of the recent strategies

- Higher turn over than regular workshops > 100% attendance
- Ppts who never turn up for regular workshop able to appreciate group adherence messages
- Complimentary feed back back from participants, express sense of ownership
- Staff feel rejuvenated
- Other non–study related benefits to ppts – saving scheme
Not connected to the ASPIRE study
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