

The Ring Study

Information for men

More options are needed to stop the spread of HIV.

The Ring Study is testing a ring that is inserted once a month and kept inside the vagina every day. Two thirds of the rings have the medicine called Dapivirine inside them and one third has no medicine. This medicine is being tested (or "investigated") by this study to see if it is able to prevent HIV infection. The only way to know if it can do this, is by doing a study like the Ring Study. When the ring is in the vagina, the medicine is slowly released. The medicine may help prevent HIV infection, but researchers must first do the study to find out if it really works.

The Ring Study requires the involvement of many people. The study is being done at research centres in South Africa and Uganda. Over 1,600 women will participate in the study. All of these women have male partners who need information about The Ring Study. This fact sheet provides some important information for men.



When a man supports his partner being in The Ring Study, he is also helping to find ways to prevent HIV.

The use of vaginal rings is not new. Vaginal rings are used in other countries to deliver other types of medicine to women. Vaginal rings do not cause problems for the male partner. Men occasionally feel the ring during sex, but most men who do feel the ring say this is not a problem.

The medicine being tested in this study is dapivirine. Dapivirine has been tested in smaller studies to see if it has harmful effects on the woman or the man's penis. Dapivirine was found to be safe, well-tolerated and acceptable to the women and men who were in these studies. Dapivirine is not a family planning method, and should not affect women's fertility.

It is expected that for 2 years women in The Ring Study will have a new ring inserted every 28 days. The ring will remain in place until the following visit to the research centre. Women will come to the research centre each month for check-ups and testing. No one knows what type of ring the woman has received. This will help researchers to learn more about the dapivirine ring, and if it works to prevent HIV. Since researchers do not know if Dapivirine prevents HIV, women will be advised to use condoms as well.

Remember:

The best method already proven to prevent HIV is a condom.

Women in The Ring Study need their partner's support.

If you have questions, feel free to discuss with your partner, or contact the Research Centre.

Name of Research Centre:

