

Microbicide delivery: formulation technologies and strategies

Joseph Romano^a, R. Karl Malcolm^b, Sanjay Garg^c, Lisa C. Rohan^d and Paulina E. Kaptur^a

^aInternational Partnership for Microbicides, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, ^bSchool of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, UK, ^cSchool of Pharmacy, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand and ^dUniversity of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, Magee Women's Research Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Correspondence to Joseph Romano, International Partnership for Microbicides, 8401 Colesville Road, Suite 200, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA
Tel: +1 610 225 0478; fax: +1 301 608 2241;
e-mail: jromano@ipm-microbicides.org

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Purpose of review

The aim of this article is to summarize the latest information on microbicide formulations for prevention of sexual transmission of HIV infection in women.

Recent findings

Although early microbicide formulations were conventionally coitally dependent gel products, new technologies are being developed for vaginal delivery of anti-HIV agents. Intravaginal rings for delivery of microbicides, for example, are being developed and evaluated clinically. Safety and acceptability data are available for many microbicide gels and for one microbicide intravaginal ring. Other microbicide formulations in development for once daily or other vaginal administration strategies include films, tablets, and ovules. Various microbicide formulations for rectal administration are also in development.

Summary

New microbicide formulations in development are addressing many of the issues with the original gels such as coital dependency, frequency of use, acceptability, compliance, cost, and adaptability to large-scale production. All of these dosage forms are promising options for safe, effective, and acceptable microbicide products.

Keywords

acceptability, formulation, HIV, microbicide, vaginal dosing