

PC50 Dry sex and the Acceptability of Microbicides gel.

Bisalomo Mwanza, Seter Siziya, Maureen Chisembele, Ruth Kasonde, Ward Siyamusantu, Olipa Sakala

ABSTRACT TEXT

Background:

In Zambia, like some other countries in Africa, women practiced dry sex because men prefer it. The reasons advanced for men's preference for dry sex is that it enhanced friction and warmth. The results from the feasibility study of MDP in Zambia support this assertion. However, there are some men who do not prefer this practice because it leads to bruises on genitals. In the MDP 301 Pilot study, the research was to assess acceptability of a placebo gel. Participants were interviewed on how they found the gel in relation to sexual pleasure.

Method:

A total of 40 women who were not part of the feasibility study were enrolled during the Pilot study. They used the placebo gel for 1 month and each woman used a weekly coital diary (CD) to collect sexual behavioural data. At the end of one month, 38 IDIs for female participants and 9 of male partners were conducted.

Results:

Data from the IDIs summaries show that all the 9 male partners liked the gel. Most reported that the gel did not cause any side effect (8), and that gel increased their sexual pleasure (4). The 38 women who used the gel reported that gel was easy to apply and convenient to use (93%), gel increased their sexual pleasure (37.8%), and that the partner liked the gel (21.6%). Both males and females interviewed indicated that the gel did not adversely affect their sexual pleasure because it reduced friction. The gel was better than vaginal traditional drugs because it made the vagina dry. Some female participants mentioned that the gel made the vagina smaller to the extent that she felt sexier and that it also reduced the days of menstrual bleeding (e.g. 9 to 5 days).

Conclusion:

There is likelihood that a microbicide gel may replace the use of traditional drugs that promoted dry sex as it is perceived to increase sexual pleasure. There are higher chances that the gel may be accepted by both men and women.

Mr Bisalomo Mwanza - Social Science Research Assistant: Microbicides Development Programme, chitungwi@gmail.com, tel +260 3 230834, fax +260 3 230868, MDP Zambia, Box 670555, Mazabuka, MAZABUKA, 10101, ZAMBIA