

GET TO KNOW DAPIVIRINE VAGINAL RING

HIV FACTS

- Women are at higher risk of contracting HIV than men of the same age.
- Over 7,000 new infections each week are acquired globally by young women.
- In Malawi, the HIV rate among Adolescent Girls and Young Women 15 to 24 years is not going down as fast as projected. Females have a higher HIV prevalence than males (10.8% vs 6.4%, respectively).
- The number of new infections remains high, considering the availability of several effective evidence-based HIV preventive interventions.
- Despite Malawi having prevention options available such as VMMC and male and female condoms, these however are male driven and not female controlled.
- Women need to have a wider choice of HIV prevention options which suit their needs and preferences. This is why PrEP and the dapivirine ring are both important new tools for women to know about. For more information about PrEP go to www.prepwatch.org

What is the dapivirine vaginal ring?

- The vaginal ring is the first long-acting and discreet self-initiated HIV prevention method designed for women, which has been shown in research among thousands of women to be safe and offer protection to women who used it as instructed.
- The ring is a flexible silicone ring that is inserted into the vagina on a monthly basis. It sits inside the vagina comfortably up against the neck of the cervix.
- The vaginal ring contains anti-retroviral (ARV) drug called Dapivirine which is released slowly for a month. The drug prevents HIV infection by blocking HIV from entering the body.



Possible benefits of the dapivirine vaginal ring

- The vaginal ring contains the antiretroviral (ARV) drug, dapivirine, which can help to prevent HIV infection in women.
- The ring could provide a discreet and easy to use new method of protection for women at high risk of HIV.
- The ring is comfortable and safe to use.
- The Vaginal rings have been shown to cause no major side effects.
- Vaginal rings are flexible, fitting comfortably inside the vagina and providing sustained delivery of drug over a period of time.
- The ring is easy for women to insert and remove on their own.

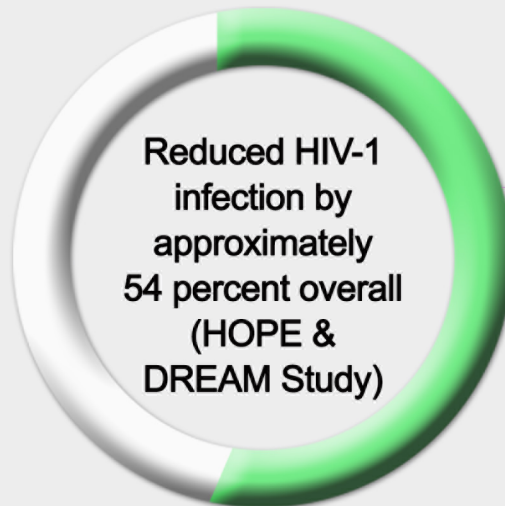
What are some of the limitations of the Ring ?

Since the latest trial result of the DREAM and HOPE study, there has never been any proven serious side effects reported for those participants who used the ring.



How much protection does the ring provide?

- * The ring effect is localized (limited to the vagina) rather than systemic (affecting the whole body internally).
- * Interim results showed in 2018 that the monthly dapivirine ring reduced women's risk of HIV infection by approximately 54 percent overall. Greater risk reduction was associated with increased use.



For more information visit the following website:

Where can one get the ring?

The ring is not available for public use. The European Medicines Agency is reviewing the ring for approval with an expected decision around mid-2019. If approved, the ring will go through each country for its own regulatory approval.

<https://www.avac.org/prevention-option/microbicides>
<https://www.avac.org/resource/microbicides-hiv-prevention-introductory-factsheet>
<https://www.ipmglobal.org/our-work/our-products/dapivirine-ring/phase-iii-results>
<http://www.mtnstopshiv.org/node/7706>
<http://www.mtnstopshiv.org/news/studies/mtn023/qa>
<https://mtnstopshiv.org/news/time-deliver-preventing-hiv-pregnant-and-breastfeeding-women>
<https://www.ipmglobal.org/content/multipurpose-prevention-ring-womens-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

Are you interested in supporting HIV prevention options for women?



- In HIV prevention advocacy for women controlled options.
- Get informed, inform others, take action now.
- Put HIV prevention for women on your agenda.



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