

# But what about...?

**Key questions about the ring and PrEP in  
adolescent girls and young women**

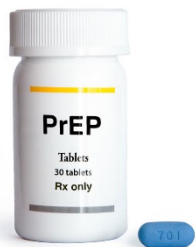
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**Meeting the HIV Prevention Needs of Adolescent Girls  
and Young Women**

**Kampala, Uganda – 25 August 2017**

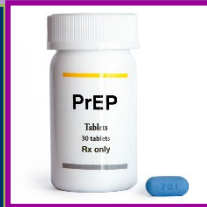


# What we know about PrEP and the ring



- PrEP is approved for those 18 and older in several countries
- The dapivirine ring could be approved in the near future – for women 18 and older
- Regulatory approvals are based on results of large (Phase III) trials explicitly designed to determine safety and effectiveness
  - Participants are randomly assigned to use either a placebo (with no active drug) or the product with active drug
  - No one knows who is in which group during the study
- PrEP and ring trials had similar results:
  - Both approaches were safe
  - Both effective with **consistent use** – monthly for the ring, daily for PrEP
  - **Not effective in younger women** – ages 18-25 – who did not use the products

# We've had longer to learn more about PrEP



## Daily PrEP



## Monthly Dapivirine Ring

	Daily PrEP	Monthly Dapivirine Ring
Phase III Trials	6	2
Open-Label Studies (with no placebo)	20+	2 (ongoing)
How effective with consistent use?	Very (more than 90%)	Don't know yet (at least 50% or more)
Where drug goes	Drug goes throughout body – must monitor potential effects	Drug delivered into vagina - little goes elsewhere
Challenges	Daily pill-taking can be difficult; stigma of HIV meds	Vaginal rings unfamiliar; takes time to get used to
Approval Status	Approved in many countries for 18+	Approval Pending – for women 18+

# What do we know about PrEP and the ring in adolescent girls?



- 96 girls in the U.S. ages 15-17 were asked to use a ring for a month at a time for 6 months
  - The dapivirine ring was safe and acceptable, and adherence was very high
  - **What about girls here in Africa?**
- A one-year study of 150 boys and girls ages 15-19 from South Africa found:
  - PrEP was safe but adherence became more difficult as level of support was reduced; adherence did not differ between sexes
  - **What about girls here in Uganda?**



Do we want girls and young women of ALL ages to have access to HIV prevention?

**YES!**



# Unanswered Questions

- Will young women be more inclined to use these products...
  - In studies that don't have a placebo?
  - Knowing that previous studies found them safe?
  - Knowing they can only work with consistent use?
- Is one easier to use than the other?
- Do they like one more than the other?  
Or do they not like either?
- What can we do to help them to use these products?
- What about girls younger than 18? How can we ensure they have access to these products?

# Discussion



# DREAM: Key questions

- Will women, including young women, use the ring better knowing that it reduces HIV infection risk?
- What can we learn about the challenges to using the ring, so that if the ring is approved we can help to address these in the “real world”?
- Will information from DREAM help governments make decisions about including the ring in national HIV prevention toolkits?



# Why REACH?



## Unanswered questions about PrEP and the ring in adolescent girls and young women

- Are these approaches safe and acceptable?
- Are they willing to use these products?
- Which one do they prefer?