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| **Proposed MTN-023 In-Depth Interview (IDI) Guide**  **[Adapted from MTN 024 IDI Guide]** | **January 30, 2013** |
| **Thank you again for your willingness to participate in this interview.**  **Let’s begin.** | |
| **HIV Risk Perception and Motivation for joining the study** | |
| **First we are going to talk about joining the study and your feelings about HIV.** | |
| 1. **What made you decide to join the study?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * Services or benefits received for participating in trial * Aspects of participant’s personal life * Aspects of the community/the place where the participant lives * Worries and concerns about HIV * Altruism * Interest/curiosity about the ring * Financial compensation | |
| 1. **What encouraged you to stay involved in the study?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * Study staff * Interest * Altruism * Services or Benefits * Worries and concerns about HIV * Financial compensation | |
| **Product attributes** | |
| **Next we are going to talk about the ring itself. We will discuss how the ring looks and feels and then your experience using it.** | |
| **3. How would you describe your reaction when you saw the ring for the first time?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * How did your feeling about the ring change over time * Any changes after touching or holding (or smelling/feeling) the ring * Any changes after first insertion * Any changes after having used the ring for awhile | |
| **4. Please describe how the ring feels inside of your body.**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Feeling upon initial insertion and once inside * How aware of the ring participant was, circumstances or situations she felt more or less aware of the ring * Any changes in participant’s body while using ring (e.g. vaginal dryness, discomfort during intercourse, incontinence (inability to hold in urine)) | |
| **5. What did you *like* about the ring? Why?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material) * Convenience/ease of use * Dosing (e.g. continuous use, episodic use) * Partner’s reaction and attitude * What do you like most about the ring?   + Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)   + Feeling inside   + Sex with ring   + Vaginal dryness/lubrication   **6.** **What did you *dislike*? Why?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material) * Inconvenience * Dosing (e.g. continuous use, episodic use) * Touching one’s genitals for insertion/removal * Concerns about hygiene * Partner’s reaction and attitude * What do you dislike most about the ring?   + Physical characteristics of the ring (e.g. color, shape, size, material)   + Inconvenience of changing ring   + Feeling inside   + Sex with ring   + Vaginal dryness/lubrication   + Incontinence (feeling like you have to urinate) | |
| **USE ATTRIBUTES** | |
| **7. Please tell me about your experience using the ring.**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Experience of insertion, removal, or ring placement * Did they check its position, once inserted (005, Q30IVR) * Any concern about the ring “getting lost” once inserted (005, Q31IVR) * Perception of how participant is supposed to be using the ring * Comfort or concerns with ring cleanliness/ hygiene while wearing the ring (continuously) * Ease/ difficulty keeping ring inserted between visits * Experience with side effects as well as benefits from using the ring * Need for assistance when inserting or removing the ring (easy/difficult to take out and reinsert on their own) | |
| **8. Other than the times you were asked to remove the ring by study staff, did you ever remove the ring?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * When and how often did it happen (self-removal or accidental displacement) * How long was it outside * Focusing on a specific event, discuss the situation and circumstances when it was removed, what the participant did about it * Removed before sex, after sex, during sex (005, Q18IVR) * Removed before period, during period (005, Q16IVR) * Removed at request of partner or to avoid partner learning about ring (005, Q10IVRH, Q10IVRD) * While defecating, urinating (005, Q18IVR) * Actual position they were in (squatting, standing, sitting, lying down) (005, Q19IVR) * If re-inserted, the participant’s experience inserting the ring outside of the clinic setting, including whether it was cleaned and how * Drug or alcohol use surrounding removal   **9. Did it ever come out on its own, either partially or fully?**   * When and how often did it happen * How long was it outside * Focusing on a specific event, discuss the situation and circumstances when it came out or was removed, what the participant did about it * While defecating, urinating (005, Q18IVR) * Actual position they were in (squatting, standing, sitting, lying down) (005, Q19IVR) * If re-inserted, the participant’s experience inserting the ring outside of the clinic setting, including whether it was cleaned and how | |
| **10. Tell me about a specific time when you had a problem with the ring [other than it coming out or you taking it out].**  *Possible probing topics:*   * When the problem happened * Circumstances surrounding problem * Drug or alcohol use surrounding problem * Persons or people associated with the problem * If and how problem was resolved   **11. Was there any time in the study when you would have liked to stop using the ring or did?**  *Probes:* Why? What happened? | |
| **ATTITUDE of parents/caregivers, partners and peers** | |
| **We now are going to discuss the reactions of other people in your life to the ring.** | |
| **12. Who have you told about using the ring? [If no one, skip to Q14]**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Primary sex partner, other sex partners, family members, friends, anyone else- what were their reactions * Parents/caregivers * Reasons for disclosure and nondisclosure * How people found out, what was said, reactions, and the participant’s feelings about the disclosure | |
| **13. [If told partner/s or parents/caregivers], What was your partner/parent/caregiver’s opinion of the ring?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Parents’ reaction (supportive, concerned about HIV or sexual activity) * Partner’s feelings about ring use, likes, dislikes, concerns/worries for herself/himself, for the participant, or for the relationship * Level of support for ring use by primary sex partner, or other sex partners * How accepting was the partner of ring use during sex (005, Q11IVR) * How concerned was the partner about ring use during sex (005, Q10IVR) * Disagreements/conflicts around ring use, including circumstances and resolution * If multiple partners, opinion of other partners * If female partners, opinion of them. * If both female and male, did opinions differ * Possible to use the ring without your partner knowing? Reasons for telling or not telling a partner * Partner’s potential/actual reactions to using the ring without telling him/her * Feelings about the importance of involving partners in decisions to use the ring and suggestions for engaging men (if applicable) | |
| **EFFECTS ON SEXUAL ENCOUNTER** | |
| **In these next questions we will ask about your sexual activity and how the ring may have influenced your activity.** | |
| **14. Can you tell me about your sexual activity before using the ring?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Type or number of sexual partners * Frequency of sex * Reasons for having sex * Payment for sex or exchange of goods/money/clothes, etc * Type of sex * Any pain during sex * Condom use for HIV/STD/pregnancy prevention * Other family planning method use | |
| **15. How would you say the ring influenced your sexual activity?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Feeling/being aware of the ring during sex and changes in how the vagina feels * Embarrassed or ashamed * Physical or emotional changes with sex for her, for her partner * Changes in sexual behaviors practiced, sexual positions, type or number of sexual partners, frequency of sex, reasons for having sex, etc. * Ring effect on partner: his/her sexual experience/the sexual relationship | |
| **Product Associated Norms** | |
| **Next we will discuss other vaginal products and forms of HIV prevention.** | |
| **16. What products or things do women you know typically use in their vagina?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * How similar or different are these products from the study ring? * What would other women you know think of the study ring? * How might the ring interfere with these products or vaginal practices? | |
| **17. What products or things do YOU typically use in your vagina?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Tampons, condoms, douching, fingers, sex toys, etc. * Hygiene products like douches or sprays * How similar or different are these products from the study ring? * What would other women you know think of the study ring? * How might the ring interfere with these products or vaginal practices? | |
| **Compare with Condom Use** | |
| **18. How does the ring compare with other products you have used to prevent HIV? [*If not sexually active, skip to Q19]***  *Possible probing topics:*   * Compared to male or female condoms * Comfort or sensation with use, such as how natural/unnatural it feels * How disruptive or discreet it is, how much it interferes with sex, life, or regular activities compared to other methods * If ring was available to use for HIV prevention, how likely are they to use it every day? (005, Q14) * What would you prefer to use for HIV prevention: condom or ring? Why is that? How about your partner? Why? | |
| **Recommendations about study and ring** | |
| **Now, let’s discuss recommendations you may have about the study and the ring.** | |
| **19. How could we have improved your experience using the ring?**  *Possible probing topics:*   * Assess like/dislike of regular text message support and communication via text vs. phone or in person support * Aspects of the instructional materials, or how the instructions were provided * Counseling, support provided * Dosing (episodic vs. continuous use)/frequency of replacement * Changes in design of ring: physical characteristics, insertion or removal method, smell, feel, lubrication * Changes in ring function: multi-purpose use (i.e. prevent pregnancy or other STI prevention as well) | |
| 1. **If the ring is found to protect from HIV, do you think that other girls/ young women you know would use it for HIV prevention? What about you?**   *Possible probing topics:*   * Issues around access, storage, disposal, discreetness, concerns or issues with short term vs. long term use on health * Concerns or issues with hygiene * Who do you think would be interested in using a vaginal ring for HIV prevention? * Who would not want to use it? * Impact of parent/caregiver, partner, friends/peers, community or others individuals’ feelings about the ring | |
| **Final Comments** | |
| 1. **We have talked about many things today. Before we finish, do you have any questions for me or additional comments about your experience in the study or the discussion today?** | |
| **Thank you for your time and your input. We appreciate your participation in this interview and the study in general.** | |