

# NIMH Collaboration in the Microbicide Trials Network

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# Integrating Behavioral & Social Science into Microbicide Research

Microbicides offer great promise, but:

- Increased risk taking may occur if low efficacy product rolled out to those with mod/high rates of CU
- Condom abandonment can be tolerated with higher efficacy microbicides
- Both efficacy and use are critical

*Foss et al., 2003; Karmon et al. 2003, Smith et al., 2005*

# NIMH Behavioral & Social Science Research on Microbicides

- Acceptability – concept, measurement
- Risk screening & behavioral assessment
- Initiation and sustained use
- Unintended effects (condom abandonment)
- Age, sex & cultural factors
- Partner & relationship characteristics
- Prevention counseling, decision-making

# MTN Protocols of Particular Interest

- MTN 004 Microbicides in adolescents
- MTN 003 Oral vs. Topical: adherence
- MTN 035: Improving adherence assessment