Location of Research Site

- Research clinic catchment area is Gugulethu, Nyanga and Delft
- Research clinic is situated in Gugulethu within a complex housing other services e.g. workshop for disabled, private practitioners, creche etc
- The clinic is easily accessible to public transport
Location of Research Site

South Africa - Provinces, HIV prevalence: Inset - Cape Town Metropole
Population of Catchment Area

- Population about 500,000
- Predominantly Xhosa speaking - “townships”
- Densely populated
- High percentage of informal “shacks”
- 12 public health clinics; one district hospital, several private practitioners
- Low educational levels
- Periodic migration to the Eastern Cape
Recruitment of High Risk Women

• Within the research population that we will be targeting, there is a high level of HIV prevalence (Antenatal HIV prevalence = 30%)
• Therefore all women considered high risk
• However, risk decreases with age i.e women over 40 are at lower risk and hence are now generally excluded from future trials
• It is impossible to identify groups of high risk women as there are no formal or organised “sex-worker” networks in this community
• Previously, a multipronged approach was successful in recruiting over 2000 women over 2 years for the Carraguard Phase 3 Trial
Community Involvement

- CAG exists for current trials with regular monthly meetings with site research teams
- CAG team is diverse and representative of the community
- The commitment of CAG members has been excellent to date
- CAG provides very important feedback on community perceptions related to ongoing research and clinic activities
- One challenge is failure to get highly influential community members e.g. pastors to be CAG members due to time constraints
Retention

• Major challenge is the periodic migration to the Eastern Cape (for periods of up to 1 month)
• Key lessons in maximising retention:
  – Frequent updating of locator information
  – Tracing participants in collaboration with community volunteers
  – Anticipating and planning for known migration times e.g. Christmas, Easter
Condom use & Product Adherence

- Condom use is generally very low in our setting – male reluctance related to “macho” behaviour
- Product adherence variable dependent on type of product and on individual behaviour
- Key lessons learnt:
  - Ongoing adherence counselling essential
  - Tailor made adherence messages to suit participants lifestyles
  - Participant events to emphasise product and study visit adherence
Site Team
Site Team