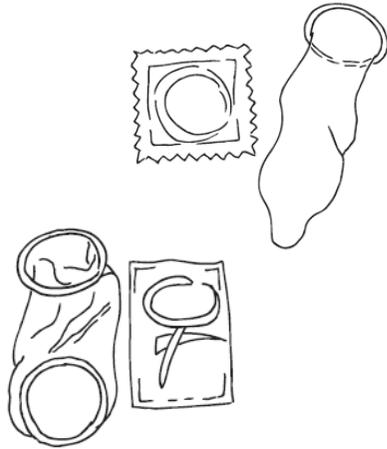


This letter gives information about condom use in HIV prevention studies.

People often ask, how can researchers learn if a new product prevents getting HIV if women in the research study are counseled to use condoms? This letter gives some answers to that question.

Using condoms consistently and correctly is the best way for women to protect themselves from getting HIV through sex.

Because of this, women who join research studies that are testing new study products are given condoms and counseled to use them every time they have sex.



Counselors make every effort to help women understand that they must not rely on the study product that is being tested to protect themselves from getting HIV.

The study product may help prevent HIV infection, but we do not know if it does.

It is true that if women in the research study used condoms every time they have sex, it will be impossible to test if the study product prevents getting HIV.

However, even with counseling and free condoms, some women and their partners do not use condoms every time they have sex.

The research study will test whether the study product prevents women from getting HIV in sex acts when condoms are not used.

This is why women in the research study are asked questions about their sexual activity, use of condoms, and use of the study product.

At the end of the research study, the researchers will put this confidential information together to learn whether the study product helped prevent women from getting HIV.

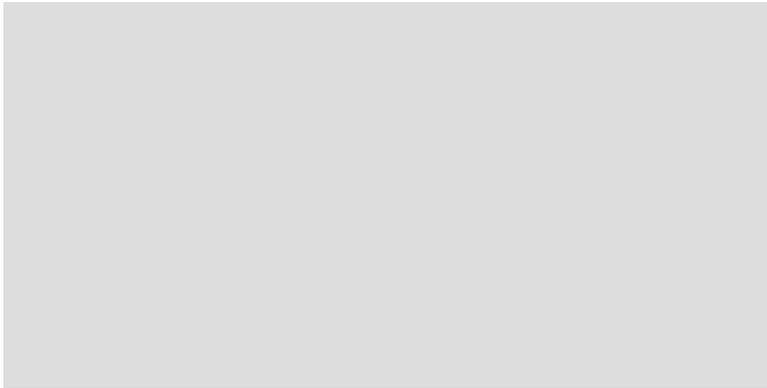
We know that condoms prevent men and women from getting HIV when used correctly and consistently. But we also know that some women and their partners do not use condoms every time they have sex. The reason we are doing this study is to try to find products other than condoms that women can use to prevent getting HIV.



If you have questions or need more information, please visit the study clinic:



If you have any immediate questions or concerns, you may also contact:



Information about Condom Use in HIV Prevention Studies

