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Characteristics of Dapivirine ring users in the SEARCH Dynamic Choice HIV Prevention studies

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BACKGROUND

- The Dapivirine ring (DVR) is effective for HIV prevention among women at risk for HIV, and an alternative when other biomedical options may not be preferred or feasible
- In the SEARCH Dynamic Choice Prevention (DCP) studies, **participants at risk for HIV** could choose between oral PrEP, PEP, CAB-LA, and the DVR

METHODS

- The SEARCH Dynamic Choice HIV prevention intervention offered Choice of biomedical prevention options with flexibility to switch between options over time guided by changing HIV risk and preference.
- In January 2024, the DVR was added as an option in 2 ongoing studies in rural Uganda and Kenya 1) oral PrEP, PEP, CAB LA, DVR (NCT 05549726) and 2) oral PrEP, PEP, DVR (NCT 04810650)
- Participants were seen in the clinic at DVR initiation and every 12 weeks during follow-up, with HIV testing, and monthly reminder phone calls.
- Participants had the option to return to the clinic monthly for ring insertion until comfortable with self-care.

Table: Characteristics of ring users in SEARCH

Variable	Frequency (%) N=34
Country	
Uganda	21 (62%)
Kenya	13 (38%)
Oral PrEP/PEP/CAB-LA/DVR	11 (32%)
Oral PrEP/PEP/DVR	23 (68%)
Age	
15-24	**8 (24%)**
25 and above	26 (76%)
Prior prevention	
PrEP	17 (50%)
PEP	2 (6%)
CAB-LA	5 (15%)
None	**15 (44%)**

Of 1560 women in the intervention arms of two Dynamic Choice HIV Prevention studies, ***34 (2%) chose and used the Dapivirine ring*** during follow-up. Adherence to the DVR at 3 months was 84%.

Analyses

We used descriptive statistics to summarize the study population.
We summarized responses about reasons for choosing the DVR with numbers and proportions.
We summarized the status of participants 3 months after initiation of the ring including reasons for discontinuing the Dapivirine ring with numbers and proportions.
Free-text responses to the “Other” category were recategorized, where possible

RESULTS

- Of 1560 women in the intervention arms of the two studies, 34 (2%) chose and used the Dapivirine ring during follow-up
- Following the baseline visit, 30/34 (88%) women self-inserted the ring at week 4. The remaining 5 (14%) had the ring inserted by a health care provider
- Of 25 who reached at least 3 months since ring initiation, 21 (84%) changed their rings on schedule, 4 discontinued rings due to menorrhagia (1), change in risk (1), or travel outside the community (2).

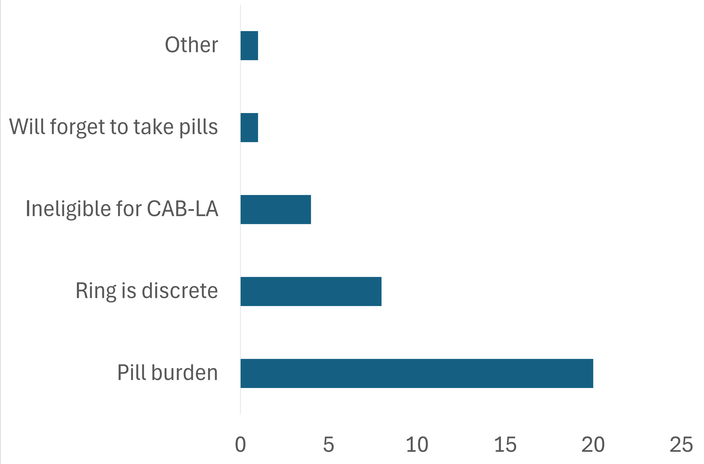


Figure: Participant reasons for choosing the Dapivirine ring at initiation

CONCLUSIONS

- Among women offered prevention options in a Dynamic Choice model that included oral PrEP, PEP, and CAB LA, adding the Dapivirine Ring as an option was feasible and a preferred option in 2% of women.
- The Ring provided an alternative to some women who had not chosen any of the other biomedical prevention options previously offered.
- The Dapivirine ring could expand uptake of HIV prevention for women in rural settings in sub-Saharan Africa

Acknowledgements