

Supplementary Appendix

This appendix has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Supplement to: Van Damme L, Govinden R, Mirembe FM, et al. Lack of effectiveness of cellulose sulfate gel for the prevention of vaginal HIV transmission. *N Engl J Med* 2008;359:463-72.

Additional information to be included on the web page for manuscript 07-07957

Total number of HIV infections included in the final analysis

An additional six study infections are included in the final analysis. Two of these – both with seroconversion dates before 30 January 2007 and both in the placebo group - had not been entered in the database in time for the interim analysis. The other four – one CS and three placebo - were identified on final visit rapid test samples taken 1, 3, 15, and 21 days after sites began instructing women to stop using product. Since the median delay between HIV infection and the detection of antibodies with rapid tests is reported to be 22 days (Busch, M., Kleinman SH, Nemo J. 2003. Current and emerging infectious risks of blood transfusions. JAMA 289:959–962), it is theoretically possible that the last two events were the result of post-study infections. However, their estimated dates of infection precede the date of product withdrawal.

All infections were HIV-1 by the SD Bioline Rapid test.

Product Acceptability

Gel acceptability was assessed by participant interview, with no important differences found between groups. At the final visit interview occurring before 30 January 2007, 96% of women reported that they liked the gel and 98% said that it was easy to apply. More than 95% said that they liked the applicator and the smell, feel, and color of the gel, and more than 95% liked that the gel could be inserted before sex and could be private. Overall, 69% of women reported that they enjoyed sex more when using the gel and 47% indicated that their partner enjoyed sex more. Leakage was reported to be the least liked characteristic of the gel (88% of women).