



For Immediate Release

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ATTN: Science and Health Editors

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FACTS Trial Results Inform Multipurpose Prevention Technology (MPT) Development

Sacramento, CA: The [FACTS 001 Phase III clinical trial](#) on the vaginal use of Tenofovir gel to prevent HIV found no evidence that 1% Tenofovir gel reduced HIV infections among women in the study. Researchers and women's health advocates expect this trial can be instructive for the developing field of Multipurpose Prevention Technologies (MPTs). MPTs are products that combine protection from unintended pregnancy, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Tenofovir gel is one of a number of preventive compounds that could be used as a building block for MPTs.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Anne Bukusi, of the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and University of Washington, "It is vital that research on the building blocks for MPTs continues because they can have a tremendous potential to impact global health. MPTs will make it possible for women to delay childbearing and advance their education while avoiding HIV and other STIs that can cause, if untreated, infertility and cancers. Women who are healthy are more likely to have healthy children."

The FACTS Trial did not confirm whether Tenofovir gel effectively prevents vaginal transmission of HIV. CAMI Health and partners are anticipating sub-analyses from this study to shed light on the ways that social contexts, including women's relationship status, comfort with vaginal application, or other factors may have shaped women's opinion of this product and influenced their desire and ability to use it.

"We need to know how the diverse contexts of women's lives impact their preferences and abilities to use different prevention methods," said Dr. Bethany Young Holt, Executive Director of CAMI Health and the Coordinator of the Initiative for MPTs (IMPT), an international collaboration of researchers and women's health advocates. "We are working with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other agencies to begin integrating social research into the rigorous technical product development process so that we can better understand and predict women's use of prevention products."

Women worldwide have a high unmet need for effective sexual and reproductive health prevention options. Every minute, a young woman is infected with HIV. Nearly 60% of all new HIV infections among young people aged 15–24 occurred among adolescent girls and young women. 222 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for contraception, resulting in 87 million unintended pregnancies each year worldwide.

Many researchers and women's health advocates are hopeful that combining HIV prevention with contraception will increase the use of HIV prevention because women will see this as a form of family planning, which is generally less stigmatized than HIV prevention on its own and can be accessed in family health care settings.

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“A number of studies indicate that women would prefer HIV prevention delivered with a contraceptive. Delivering HIV prevention in combination with contraception has great potential to impact women’s health around the world and it is therefore imperative to continue research and investment in this important field,” said Dr. Craig Cohen, Co-Director of UC Global Health Institute Center of Expertise in Women’s Health & Empowerment, and Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Other promising MPT formulations in the product development pipeline include other vaginal gels, vaginal films, pills and injectables and can be viewed in full in the [MPT Product Development Database on the IMPT website](#).

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Editors and reporters, please contact Laura Vyda (Lvyda@cami-health.org, 510-387-1739) to arrange interviews with the researchers quoted in this release and to receive additional information about MPTs and the FACTS 001 study.