New ring to prevent new HIV infections

Mzwandile Khathi

Two studies involving women from South Africa and Uganda have given a new breakthrough in the fight against HIV and Aids. The Ring Study and ASPIRE have shown how a vaginal ring containing antiretroviral drugs can reduce new HIV infections. The ring which contains dapivirine is a new protective measure meant to be used by women who are sexually active. It has been developed by a non-profit organisation called International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM).

The development of the dapivirine ring has been hailed as an important achievement for women’s health. "These important findings give new hope to the many women at high risk who need more and different options to effectively protect themselves from HIV. "For the first time a long acting HIV prevention method designed for women has been shown to have efficacy in women," said Dr Annalene Nel, chief medical officer for IPM and one of The Ring Study leaders.

The ring reduces HIV infection by 31% and can be used over an extended period of time. It is inserted into the vagina where it can remain for 28 days. While it is inside the vagina, it slowly releases dapivirine which prevents the sexual transmission of HIV. The study showed dapivirine to be very effective and having minimal side effects.

The South African Medical Research Council has welcomed the introduction of the ring. Glenda Gray, president of the South African Medical Research Council said, "This landmark study paves the way to deliver interventions to women to protect themselves against HIV. The finding that a vaginal ring containing an antiretroviral can help protect women provides a strong possibility to leapfrog our ability to curtail HIV infection in women. This finding will have a profound impact in the HIV prevention field."

Two studies in involving women from South Africa and Uganda has given a new breakthrough in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The Ring Study and ASPIRE have shown how a vaginal ring containing antiretroviral drugs can reduce new HIV infections. The ring which contains dapivirine is a new protective measure meant to be used by women who are sexually active. It has been developed by a non-profit organisation called International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM).

The development of the dapivirine ring has been hailed as an important achievement for women’s health. "These important findings give new hope to the many women at high risk who need more and different options to effectively protect themselves from HIV. "For the first time a long acting HIV prevention method designed for women has been shown to have efficacy in women," said Dr Annalene Nel, chief medical officer for IPM and one of The Ring Study leaders.

The ring reduces HIV infection by 31% and can be used over an extended period of time. It is inserted into the vagina where it can remain for 28 days. While it is inside the vagina, it slowly releases dapivirine which prevents the sexual transmission of HIV. The study showed dapivirine to be very effective and having minimal side effects.

The South African Medical Research Council has welcomed the introduction of the ring. Glenda Gray, president of the South African Medical Research Council said, "This landmark study paves the way to deliver interventions to women to protect themselves against HIV. The finding that a vaginal ring containing an antiretroviral can help protect women provides a strong possibility to leapfrog our ability to curtail HIV infection in women. This finding will have a profound impact in the HIV prevention field."

The new vaginal ring which is aimed at preventing sexual transmission of HIV.