

MATRIX-003

Sexual Partner In-depth Interview (IDI) Topic Guide

INSTRUCTIONS for the Interviewer: How to use the IDI Guide

1. *Instructions/suggestions to interviewer are in italics and [brackets].*
2. Not ALL questions need to be asked. It is up to the interviewer's discretion if a question should be skipped if the participant has already provided a response to the question earlier in the interview. Please ensure that by the end of the interview, all the topics and key themes have been covered.

Before starting the IDI, ensure the participant has provided written informed consent.

[Start Recorder and provide an introduction]: I have started recording now. The participant ID is ____, the date and time is _____. My name is _____. Thank you again for your willingness to have this interview with us. The main goal of this discussion is to better understand your experience during your partner's participation in this study. I want to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers, and what we discuss here will be kept confidential; we will not share your personal information or responses with anyone outside of the study.

If during our discussion there are issues or concerns that you would like to talk about, feel free to bring them up; I will take note of them and answer them directly after the interview. If I cannot answer them, I can refer you to someone who may be able to help. Before we start, can you confirm for the recorder that you have already provided written informed consent to take part in this discussion and are willing to continue? [Wait for oral confirmation to begin].

A. Background and introduction
<p>Can you tell me a little bit about yourself?</p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can you tell me about your background? How about your work, family and social life?• Tell me about your perspectives on pregnancy prevention.• Tell me about your perspectives on HIV prevention.
<p>Can you tell me a little bit about the community you currently are a part of?</p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who do you consider to be part of your community?(e.g. family, friends, religious group, affinity groups, local neighbors) Who is generally responsible for making sexual health decisions in your community?• Who is generally responsible for making sexual health decisions in your community?• Can you tell me how your community feels about HIV prevention products? And what do you think about these beliefs? If you can, please give me an example.• Can you tell me how your community feels about on pregnancy prevention? And what do you think about these beliefs? If you can, please give me an example.
<p>Have you or your partner (while you were in a relationship) used anything for HIV or pregnancy prevention? What have you used or done to prevent HIV or pregnancy? Can you tell me about what you are currently doing to protect yourself or your partner from HIV? (e.g. condoms, HIV testing, medical male circumcision, mutual monogamy, etc.)</p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which methods are your most preferred? And why do you prefer those methods ?• Which methods are your least preferred? Why?• Who generally makes the decision about your partner's health needs?• In your relationship who is responsible for HIV prevention methods?• In your relationship who is responsible for pregnancy prevention methods?

B. Experience

Did your partner discuss her decision to join this study with you? What was the conversation like?

Possible probing topics:

If the partner and participant discussed her study participation:

- What did your partner tell you about the study?
- Can you tell me about what you know of the vaginal rings used in this study? (e.g. purpose, how they're used, etc.)

If the partner and participant did not discuss study participation:

- Were you interested in knowing about the study? What did you want to know more about?

Probe further depending on what the partner knows about the IVRs:

- What was your initial reaction when you found out about the vaginal rings?
- Did your opinion about the vaginal ring(s) change over time? How so?
- Did you talk about your opinions about the ring(s) with your partner? How did that go?
- Did you have any concerns about the ring(s) or the study? What were they? If you shared those concerns with your partner, what was that conversation like? ? If you didn't share those concerns, why not?
- Did those concerns change at any point (get worse or go away)?
 - If yes, why did they change?
 - Do you still have those concerns?
- Were there any challenges in your relationship due to your partner using the rings?
- Were there any positive changes in your relationship due to your partner using the rings?

C. Sexual experience using the ring(s)

In this section, try to learn more about whether the partner's experience or opinion relates to the ring used in Month 1 or Month 2. Ask probing questions below related to both or either ring as necessary.

Did you and your partner have sex during the study? If so, did you have sex during both Month 1 and Month 2 of the study?

What was the sexual experience like during the time that your partner had the ring(s) inserted? Did the rings affect your sexual activities in any way? If so, how so?

Possible probing topics:

- Could you tell when your partner was wearing either ring? How did you know it was there?
- What did sex feel like when your partner was wearing the ring?
- Did you talk to your partner about the ring and your sexual experience? Why or why not?
- Did you ever remove the ring or ask your partner to remove it? *Explore why and what happened when they asked.*
- If there were changes in your sexual relationship, do you think they were good or bad?
- Did you experience any changes in sexual interests, either from you or from your partner? If so, how?

If the partner felt the ring during sex: Tell me about a situation when you felt the ring during sex with your partner. (i.e. What happened, how did you react, how did she react?)

Possible probing topics:

- How often did this occur?
- Did feeling the ring increase or decrease your pleasure during sex? How so?
- Did you change how you had sex because of the ring (e.g. *sexual positions, type of sex*)? If so, can you explain?
- Did this happen during Month 1 of her study participation or Month 2?
- Did you notice a difference in your sexual experience during Month 1 and Month 2? If so, what were the differences?

D. Acceptability

In this section, try to learn more about whether the partner's experience or opinion relates to the ring used in Month 1 or Month 2. Ask probing questions below related to both or either ring as necessary.

How would you feel about your partner using this vaginal ring in the future to prevent HIV and/or pregnancy (a 2-in-1 vaginal ring with a design like this) compared to other prevention methods (e.g. condoms, tablets, injections, etc.)?

Possible probing topics:

- How would you feel about your partner using this 2-in-1 vaginal ring compared to a product that just prevents one thing, HIV or pregnancy?
- Was there anything you liked or disliked about your partner's use of the vaginal ring(s)?
- Were there any benefits for you? If any, please explain.
- Did your feelings about your partner using the ring change between Month 1 and Month 2 of the study? If so, how?
- Do you have a preference between the ring used during Month 1 and the ring used during Month 2?

E. Future ring use

If you can take a moment and think about your circle of friends, how do you think they would feel about their sexual partner(s) using a vaginal ring for HIV and pregnancy prevention?

Possible probing topics:

- How would your peers or friends feel about this 2-in-1 vaginal ring? What do you think they would say if they heard about it?
- Is there anything that you would change about the ring (e.g. size, colour, scent, thickness)?
- If the vaginal ring is available, what information should the community or potential users be given to encourage people to use it?

Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

We have talked about a lot of things today. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me and share your opinions. We truly appreciate your willingness to participate and discuss your experiences with us. Before we end, I want to give you the chance to tell us anything else you think we should know about the ring – good things, bad things, challenges or successes– anything that will help us better understand and improve on this ring.

Do you have any comments or anything else to share with us about your overall experience with the study before we end our discussion?

Thank you so much for your time and participation in our discussion and in the study.