



A BEHAVIORAL AND CLINICAL STUDY OF ATTITUDES TOWARD AND USE OF PLACEBO IMPLANTS AND INJECTIONS

A key facet of reducing the burden of HIV is establishing ongoing communication between end-users, product developers, and clinical researchers developing implants, injectables, and other long-acting methods for HIV prevention and treatment.

SAMURAI is a 4-year study comparing the acceptability and preferences of placebo implants and injectables among heterosexual men and men who have sex with men (MSM) in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

The study is examining whether men will find implant use acceptable as a delivery form and no less acceptable than intramuscular injections. It also will assess acceptability of these two long-acting delivery forms relative to daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and the male condom.

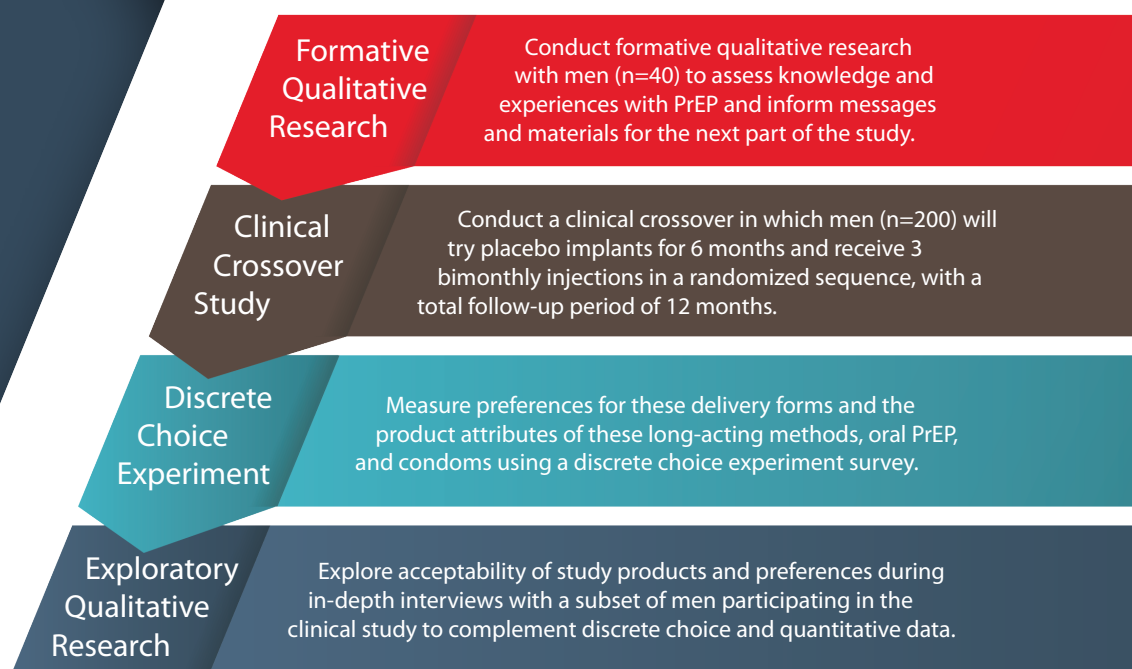
The study design is a mixed methods approach combining qualitative in-depth interviews, a randomized crossover clinical study, and a discrete choice experiment (see **Figure 1**).

Key Takeaways

Early involvement of men in product development is an important opportunity to measure and address product acceptability and foster male ownership of novel HIV prevention and treatment strategies.

This approach will enhance potential effectiveness and impact and broaden male engagement in HIV prevention.

Figure 1. SAMURAI Study Design



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Long-acting Pre-exposure Prophylaxis

Long-acting PrEP is a promising alternative to existing HIV prevention methods being developed for men and women. Because the formulation of these products mirrors successful contraceptive products, up to now research to assess end-user acceptability and actual experiences has largely focused on women.

However, heterosexual men and MSM—as a key population for whom injectable PrEP has been shown to be an effective HIV prevention tool—are important end-user groups for future long-acting prevention options.¹

The SAMURAI study builds on our prior research with Cape Town youth in the iPrevent study—which also used qualitative methods and a discrete choice preference survey—that highlighted young men’s interest in long-acting HIV prevention and the “invisibility” to oneself, others, and the community these methods may afford.²

Our research also found preference differences between heterosexual men and MSM. For example, heterosexual men placed more importance on longer duration in an HIV prevention product, whereas MSM had a greater preference for injections over implants. However, if offered a longer-duration implant, on average men were willing to trade injections, their preferred product form, for implants to achieve longer protection and less frequent dosing.³

Consequently, our current research in the SAMURAI study is focusing on the acceptability of and preferences for novel long-acting PrEP delivery formulation use among key end users: heterosexual men and MSM in South Africa.



Learn More
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Additional Information

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