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Men Don't Need to Know Everything (“Gason pa bezwen konnen tout bagay”): Implementing a Pilot Study on the Acceptability of a Contraceptive Cervical Cap among Haitian-American Women

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OBJECTIVES

To evaluate early results of a pilot study among Haitian-American women; to extend cervical barrier research to US women at high HIV risk.

METHODS

A pilot study in Miami assessing feasibility/short-term acceptability of a contraceptive cervical cap among 30 Haitian-American women aged 18-45 yrs. After a 45', small-group, educational session in Créole, women are fitted, asked to try the cap for 1-2 weeks and return for an interviewer-administered questionnaire and focus group discussion.

RESULTS

Nine women have completed follow-up. Most were married and had children. Two-thirds were unemployed; 9 had no health insurance. None reported prior use of female barriers, or tampons. All women inserted the cap (4-8 hrs); 1 used it during intercourse. 7 of 9 liked/very much; 1 neutral; 1 disliked. Overall complaints were few. 6 women had minor difficulty in removal. All women elected to keep the cap; all would recommend the method to other women. Method attributes mentioned frequently include: (1) comfortable, (2) covert use, (3) reusable device. Women appreciated study sessions: “It’s a training that will help me cope with poverty...something I can share with other women.” The cap was liked, “Because it’s convenient and easy to insert and you don't have to take pills and have an operation”. Recruitment is slower than anticipated partly due to scheduling conflicts (insecure employment, childcare, medical problems) and limited study resources.

CONCLUSION

Enrolled women without prior cervical barrier experience liked the cap. Recruitment challenges include helping women overcome initial hesitancy with female barrier, and facilitating women’s attendance at 2-3 h initial session.