

Strategies in development or not available in Canada *These strategies are not yet available in Canada or are still under development.*



USING MICROBICIDES

Applying a product (gel, vaginal ring) inside the vagina or rectum prior to penetration that contains medication to protect against HIV (still in development)

Description

- Microbicides are a type of pre-exposure prophylaxis that comes in the form of a cream, gel, suppository, pill, sponge, or ring. These products contain medications that protect against HIV and sometimes other STIs.
- Microbicides must be applied to the rectum or the vagina before penetration.
- Some microbicides are designed to act as a barrier that prevents HIV and other viruses or bacteria from reaching cells and infecting them. Others are designed to destroy or neutralize these viruses or bacteria.¹

Effectiveness

- Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of microbicides in reducing HIV transmission.
- In 2010, a South African study reported that a vaginal gel containing tenofovir had reduced the transmission of HIV from men to women by 39%, the best results being obtained when the gel was used more consistently.¹
- It's possible that rectal microbicides could have a significant impact on reducing HIV transmission. However, substantial research is still needed to confirm an effective product.¹

References

1. CATIE. (2017). *Le VIH au Canada : Guide d'introduction pour les fournisseurs de services. – Les microbicides*. Retrieved from <http://www.catie.ca/fr/vih-canada/4/4-2/4-2-2/4-2-2-5>
2. Uhrig J.D., Lewis, M.A., Ayala, G. & Stryker, J. (2011). Recommendations from a Research Consultation to Inform the Next Generation of HIV Prevention Messaging for Men who Have Sex With Men (MSM). *Annals of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research*, 13 (3), 1-9.