



Uganda Virus Research Institute



Information and assent form for the male secondary students invited to participate in the MENISCUS project

Project code: MENISCUS, version 1.1 (April 2015)

Summary (What you should know about this preparatory study):

- The MENISCUS Study is exploring the best ways to promote: knowledge of puberty and HIV/AIDS; use of HIV/AIDS control methods (e.g. safe male circumcision) among boys and menstrual hygiene among girls attending secondary schools in Uganda.
- This document explains the purpose of this study and what you will be asked to do if you agree to participate.
- Your participation is completely voluntary. You have the right to take part in the study or to agree to take part now and change your mind later.
- Whatever you decide will not affect your regular healthcare and support.
- Please review this form carefully. Ask any questions before you make a decision.

You will be given a copy of this form to keep.

Part 1: Information about this study

Introduction

The MENISCUS Study is led by the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in United Kingdom, with collaboration of a non-governmental organization called Grassroot Soccer (www.GrassrootSoccer.org) and the Ministry of Education and Sports of Uganda. We are carrying out research to guide our secondary schools and health facilities to identify practical ways of helping boys to become and stay healthier, by reducing their risk of getting sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS.

We invite you to be part of this research. It is optional for you to choose to be part of this research. We have received permission to conduct this research from your school administration, Entebbe Municipality, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ethics Committees of both the UVRI and LSHTM.

If you agree to participate, we shall also ask your parent/guardian for permission as well. Both of you have to agree before you can be involved.

Please feel free to ask us questions now or later using our contact information which is indicated below. We will take time to explain to you.

Purpose: Why are you doing this research?

The purpose of the MENISCUS Study is to help us to design a health promotion intervention that will: provide puberty and HIV/AIDS education for both boys and girls attending secondary schools in Uganda; promote use of HIV/AIDS control methods, including safe male circumcision for boys and promote menstrual hygiene for girls. We then hope to get funding to evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions through the secondary schools.

Selection

We request you to participate in this research because we believe that you are a male secondary school student attending form 2 or 3 in one of 4 schools chosen for this preliminary study, and a very likely beneficiary of the proposed adolescent-friendly interventions.

Procedures

We request you to participate either in interviews (60-90 minutes), a questionnaire (40-60 minutes), up to three school sessions (40 minutes each) on puberty, HIV/AIDS control interventions and the soccer-based promotion of safe male circumcision (60 minutes).

Risks and discomfort

We will be asking you to share with us some personal and confidential information (e.g. related to your sexual, reproductive and health and HIV status). You may feel uncomfortable talking about some of the topics. Our trained and experienced health workers will guide you.

Benefits

There will be no immediate and direct benefit to you. But your participation is likely to help us, the schools, health facilities and the education and health authorities to find out more about your health information and service needs. We hope that these will help all the relevant people to meet those needs better in the future. Taking part in this research may also remind you to think deeply about your health and your future.

Reimbursements: Will you get anything for being in the research?

You will not be paid to take part in this research. However, you will be given a pen, a unique/special hardcover note book and a soft drink to compensate for your time and effort.

Confidentiality: Is anybody going to know about this?

We will not tell other people that you were involved in this research. We shall not share personal information that identifies you to anyone who does not work in this research. Any information about you will have a study number on it instead of your name.

Sharing the Findings: Will you tell me the results?

During and at the end of this research, we will be sharing what we have learnt with the adolescents, parents/guardians, teachers, health workers, education and health authorities and with the national and international community through meetings and conferences. We will also publish the results internationally in science journals and in electric websites in order that other interested people may learn from our experience and evidence. All results will be presented anonymously, and will never be presented in a way that would allow anyone outside the research staff to know what you answered.

Who to Contact

You may contact any of the following about this research:

a) **Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu**, Director of MRC/UVRI Research Unit on AIDS and Principal Investigator, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49 Entebbe, Uganda.
Tel: +256 417 704 000 or +256 414 321 461 (Office hours)
E-mail: pontiano.kaleebu@mrcuganda.org

b) **Dr. George Miiro**, Medical Officer and Project Coordinator, UVRI, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49 Entebbe, Uganda.
Tel: +256 414 322 016 or +256 414 321 672 (Office hours)
E-mail: gmmiiro@yahoo.co.uk or gmmiiro@uvri.go.ug

If you have any questions, complaints or concerns about your rights as a relevant party in this research, please contact:

The Chairman, UVRI Research and Ethics Committee (Independent Authority),
UVRI, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49, Entebbe, Uganda.
Tel: +256 414 321 962

If you have any questions, complaints or concerns about your rights as a party in this research, please contact:

The chairman, Research Ethics committee (independent authority),

UVRI, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49, Entebbe, Uganda
Tel: + 256414321962

PART 2: ASSENT (VERSION 1.1, APRIL 2015)

a) All students should complete this section

Date Of Birth (DOB): / /
dd / mm / yyyy

Study number (IDNO):

I have understood this information. My questions have been answered. I know that I can ask questions later if I have them.

Initials (stating letter for your first name, middle name (if any) and surname (NAM):

Signature of student: _____
Date of interview (IDATE): / /
dd / mm / yyyy

If you (student) assent, indicate in the box:

I agree to take part in the research (ASSENT):

OR

If you (student) do not wish to take part in the research, indicate in the box:

I do not wish to take part in the research (NOASSENT):

Name of School

Form/Class

Phone Number

Alternate Phone Number of your guardian/parent

E-mail address

Name of Next of Kin

To be completed by the researcher

Statement by the investigator/researcher:

I confirm that the individual has given assent freely.

Name of researcher: _____ Date: / /
dd / mm / yyyy

Signature: _____

The Parent/Guardian has signed an informed consent (Yes=1, No=2)
_____ (initialed by researcher/assistant)