

Rectal Microbicide advocacy in the UK

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Rectal Microbicide Advocacy

- Why is it important?
- Rectal microbicide advocacy in the UK – how can the gay men's sector get involved?

Why advocacy?

- Potential to offer a second line of disease prevention beyond condoms.
 - Unprotected anal intercourse – risk factor for HIV transmission.
 - Inconsistent and non-condom users.
 - Men who have sex with men (MSM) and women all over the world practise anal intercourse.

Why advocacy - Research

- Move research forward positively.
 - Policies to increase research support for an effective microbicide
 - Safety and effectiveness of a vaginal microbicide if used for anal sex.
 - More research into attitudes, sexual relationships and populations where anal sex occurs will inform access, marketing and use of products.

Research cont..d

- Unpublished data from Gay Men's Sex Survey 2003 showed that:
 - 23.7% of people had heard of microbicides
 - 93.4% would consider using a partially effective microbicide.
- Importance of adhering to high standards of ethics codes during clinical trials.

Why advocacy -funding

- Increased funding for rectal microbicides
 - The field is still under-funded.
 - Report by the International Working Group on Rectal Microbicides 2006 emphasises this.
 - Homophobia and stigma amongst policy makers
 - Anal intercourse a taboo and association with gay men.

Targeted advocacy

- Advances in vaginal microbicides research is a result of targeted advocacy by women demanding a product.
- This needs to be seen in the gay men's sector

What can you do?

- Join the UK Rectal Microbicide Working Group (email kim@nfi.net)
- Raise awareness about rectal microbicides.
 - Presentations available from the Global Campaign website www.global-campaign.org
- Incorporate microbicides into other messages e.g. sexual health and well-being.

What can you do?

- Learn more on rectal microbicides and sexual health for gay men
 - www.lifelube.org
 - Fact sheet on rectal microbicides on www.globalcampaign.org
- Write to your local MP.
- Sign the petition and register for news updates on the Global Campaign website.



- Thank you!

- Questions.....for discussion.