Unusual Discomfort as Reported by Clients Receiving PrePex™ Device Circumcision in a Pilot Study in Mozambique: Programmatic Implications

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Methods
- At removal of the PrePex device, 111 clients were randomly asked for in-depth interviews about their experience, and whether they would recommend PrePex to others.
- The interviews were repeated 21 days later.
- Interview transcripts were entered, coded and scrutinized in ATLAS.Ti™ to identify issues with PrePex that were not included in the client information package, and thus were classified as unusual.

Results
- In the interviews, 85.8% of the recipients of PrePex circumcision indicated they had a good experience with the device and 91.3% of the clients who used PrePex would recommend it to others.
- The interviews identified the occurrence of four presentations of discomfort not foreseen by the providers.
- The most frequent discomfort was the difficulty in keeping the penis upright, followed by the tendency of the skin of the penis to adhere to underwear (complicating the act of urinating), quick soiling of the bandages before the scheduled follow-up visit, and need for frequent hygiene and cleansing due to odor when in bed.

Results, continued
- The complaints were associated with embarrassment in public and interference with social life.

Conclusions
- Although satisfaction levels are high, unusual discomfort with PrePex may affect its acceptability.
- Appropriate measures should be considered when implementing large-scale device circumcision, including:
  - Providing clients with information on how to handle such situations
  - Providing questionnaires to monitor forms of discomfort

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