

Sex workers' beliefs, experiences and perceptions of COL-1492 in Durban, South Africa



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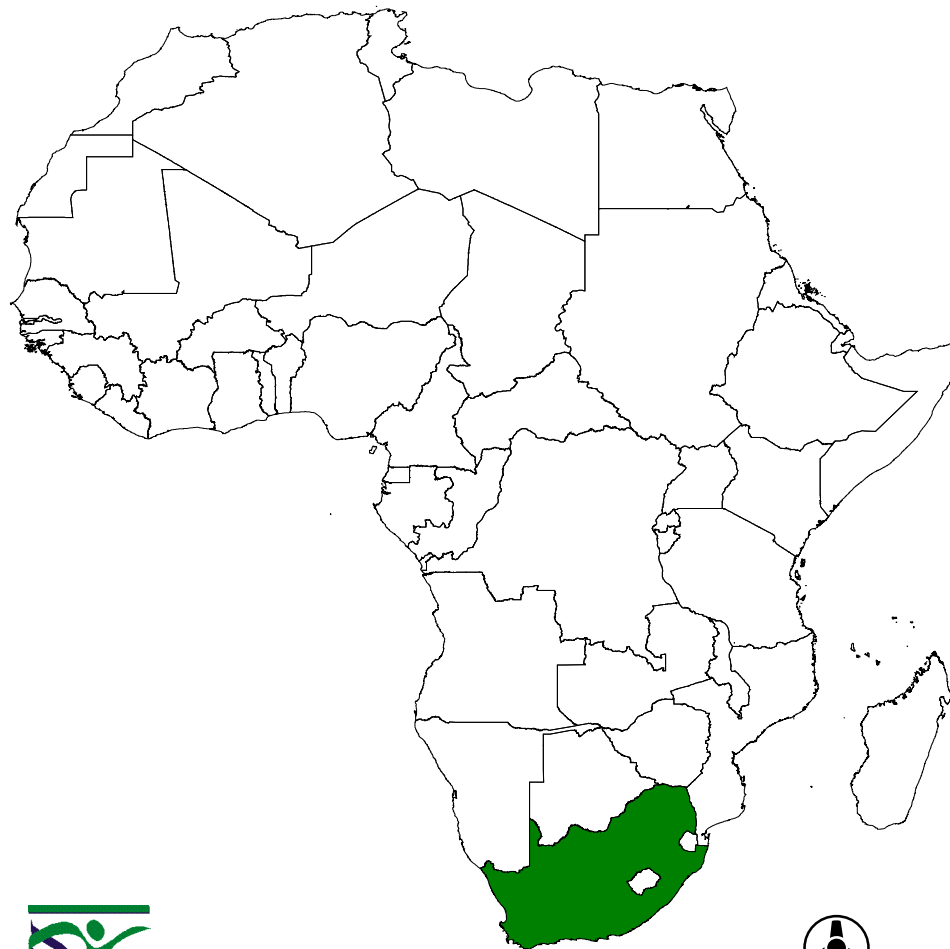
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- ✦ All women who participated in the study

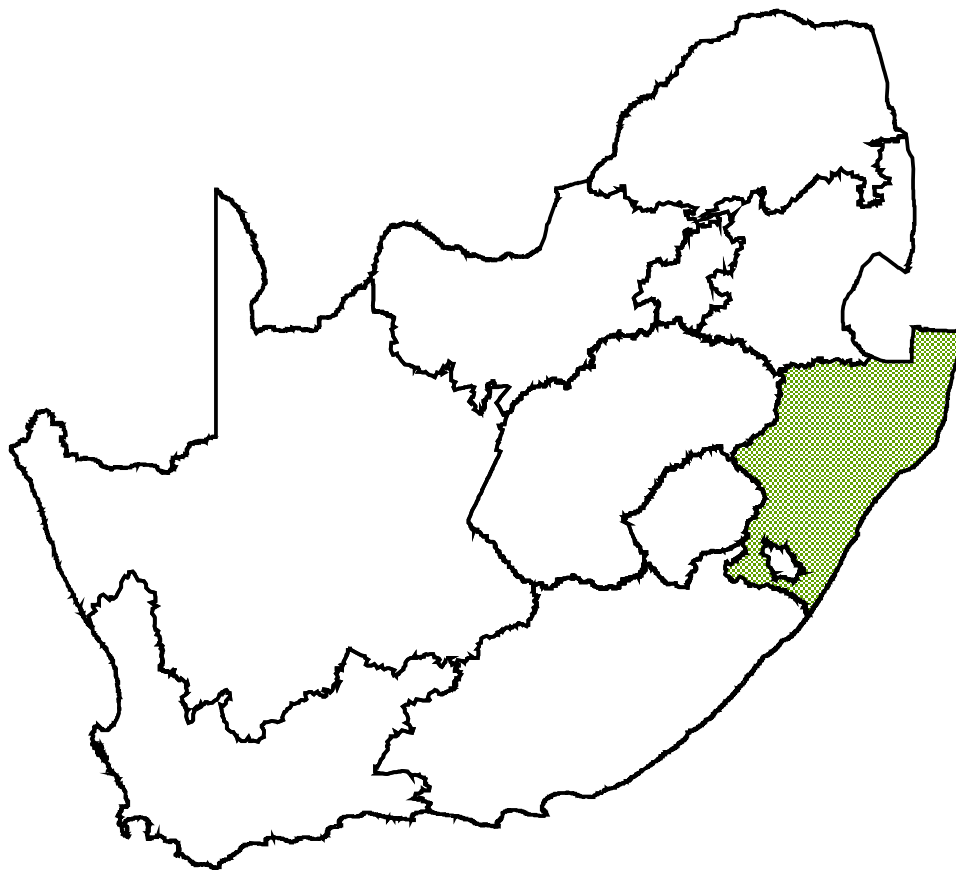
INTRODUCTION

- ★ 1996 – 2000: sex workers participated in COL 1492 (52.5mg N9) trial
- ★ 192 women randomized into placebo and COL 1492 arms
- ★ AIDS 2000 Conference: COL 1492 not effective as vaginal microbicide in preventing HIV and STIs



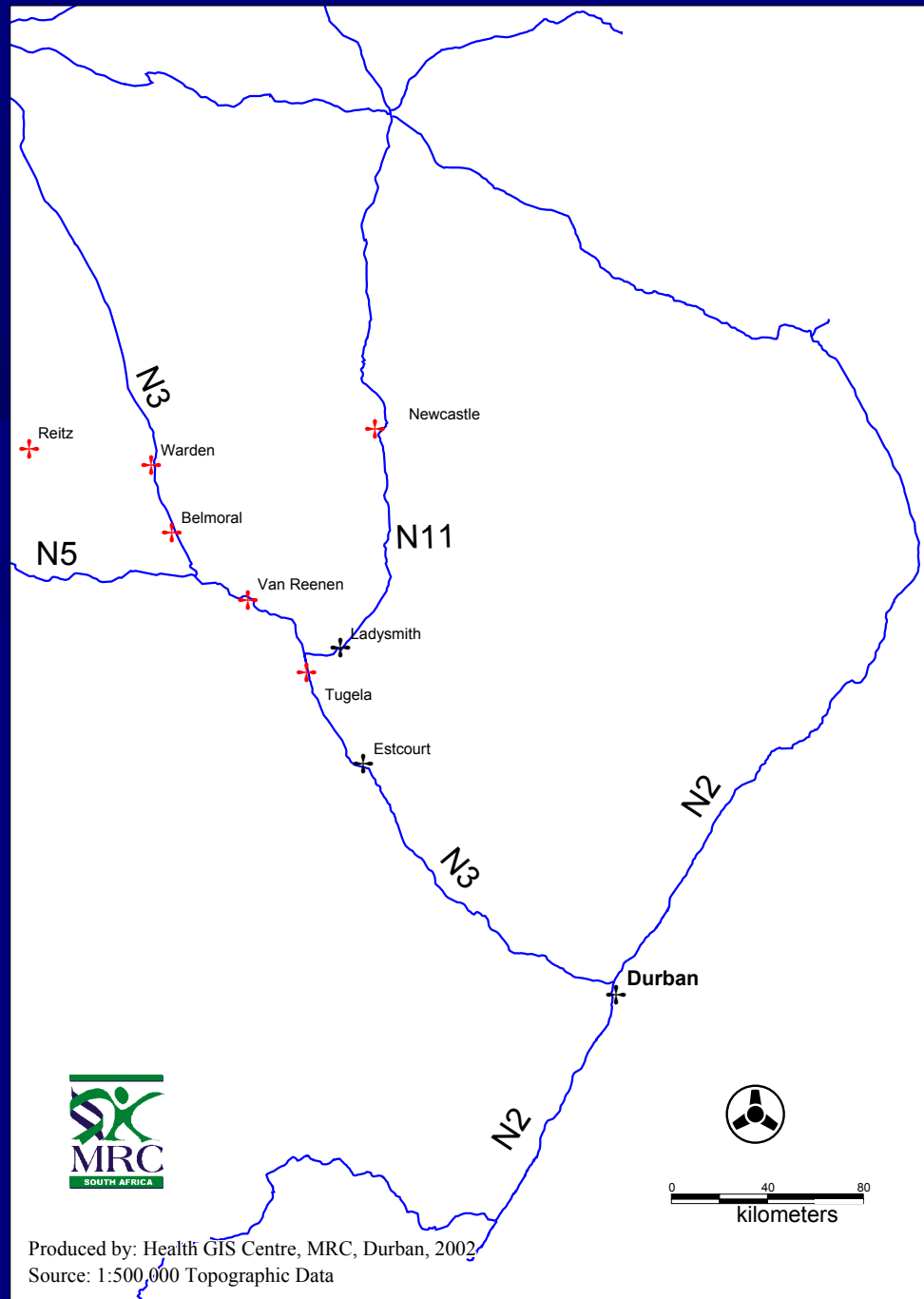
Produced by: The Health GIS Scentre, MRC, Durban, 2002
Source: Africa Data Sampler





Produced by: The Health GIS Centre, MRC, Durban, 2002
Source: Statistics South Africa





Produced by: Health GIS Centre, MRC, Durban, 2002
Source: 1:500,000 Topographic Data



STUDY OBJECTIVE

- ★ To explore sex worker's beliefs and experiences of using COL-1492 in the Phase III trial

METHODOLOGY

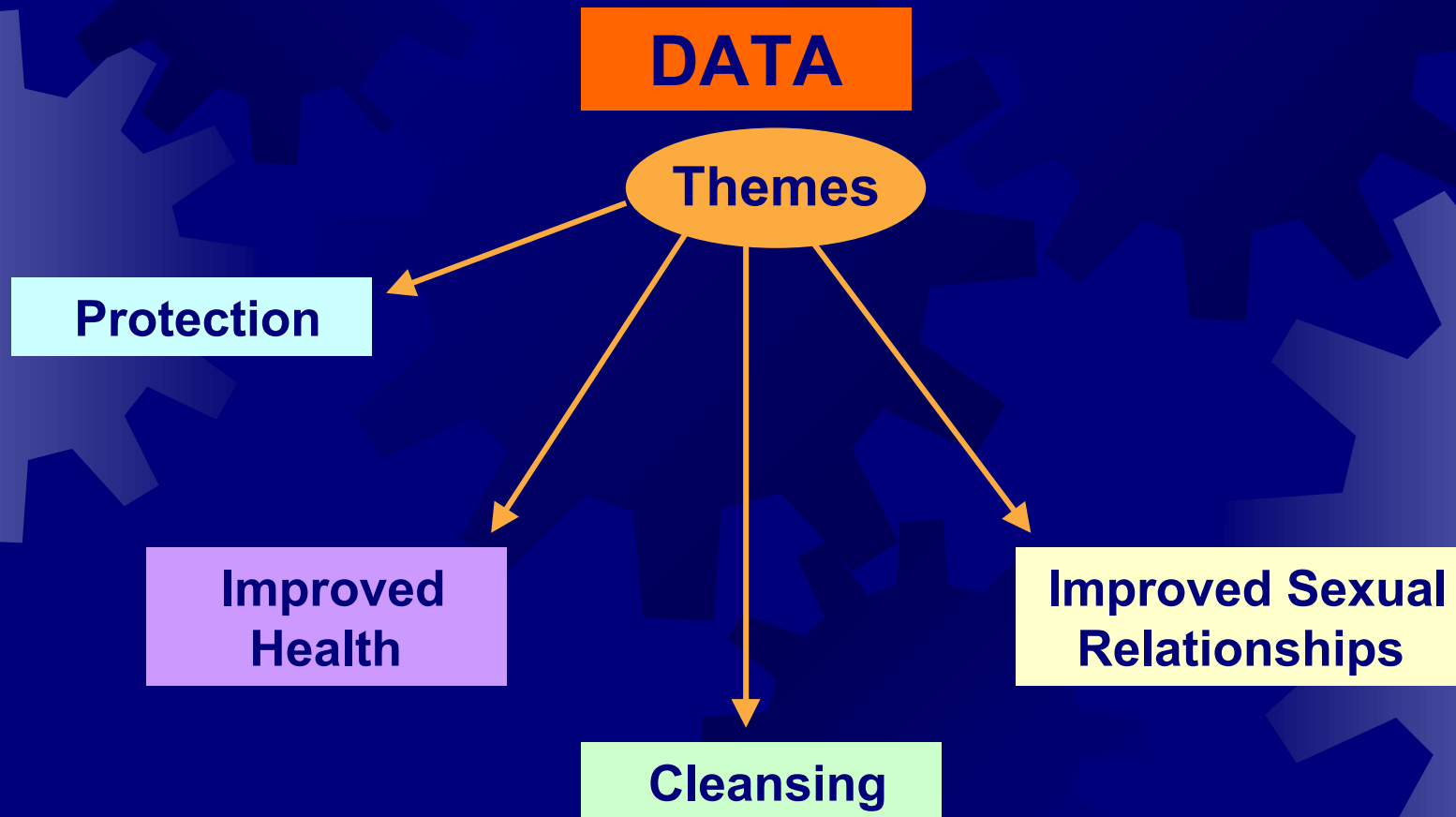
- ★ 15 focus group discussions
- ★ 103 open-ended interviews

DATA ANALYSIS

- ★ Thematic analysis
- ★ NUD*IST

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Positive Perceptions of Gel



RESULTS - Positive Perceptions:

Perception of Protection:

- ★ Gel use will protect – if no condom used
- ★ Did not get diseases
- ★ Attract more clients
- ★ Stopped discharge
- ★ Felt protected – after client disclosed STI infection

RESULTS – Positive Perceptions:

Perception of Improved Health:

- ✦ No abdominal pain
- ✦ Reduction in STI's
- ✦ Felt healthier-dysmenorhea
- ✦ No pain in uterus

RESULTS – Positive Perceptions:

Perception of Genital Cleansing:

- ✦ No smell
- ✦ Remove dirt from the vagina

RESULTS – Positive Perceptions:

Perception on Improved Sexual Relationship:

Lubrication:

- ☀ Pleasure having sex
- ☀ Reduced pain of intravaginal substance use
- ☀ Provided enough lubrication

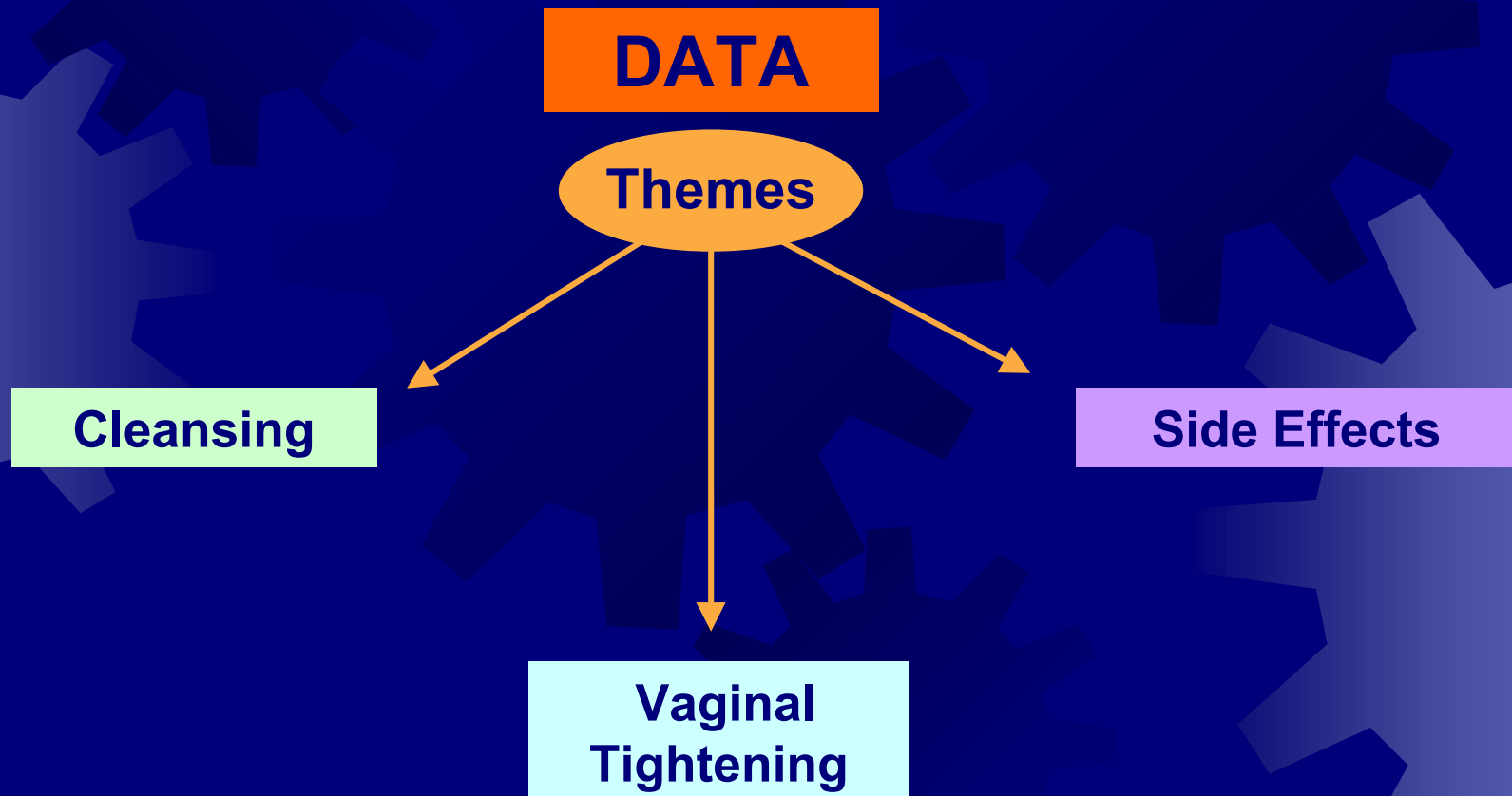
RESULTS – Positive Perceptions: Perception of Improved Sexual Relationship...cont:

Drainage of Water:

- ✦ Removed excess water from vagina
- ✦ Virginal feeling due to tightness
- ✦ Provided desired form of dryness
- ✦ Partners could not tell if had sex with other men
- ✦ Increased sexual pleasure

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Negative Perceptions of Gel



RESULTS – Negative Perceptions:

PERCEPTION OF CLEANSING

- ✦ cleaning vagina → Pregnancy

PERCEPTION OF TIGHTENED VAGINA

- ✦ undesirable by some women

PERCEPTION OF SIDE EFFECTS

- ✦ Caused abdominal pain
- ✦ Abnormal menstruation
- ✦ Itchiness → scratching → sores and blisters

CONCLUSION

- ✦ Despite provision of information – created false perceptions of the effect of the product
Study shows desperate need by women for microbicide methods
- ✦ Both positive and negative perceptions → indication of acceptable/unacceptable characteristics of products
- ✦ Avoiding false perception of trial products by participants – challenge – developing countries – desperate need for women controlled HIV prevention method