

Partnership for Male Circumcision: Achieving Scale

Population Council/PSI Research Plans for Zambia and Swaziland

Male Circumcision and HIV Prevention:
Operations Research Priorities
WHO/UNAIDS Meeting
Nairobi, Kenya June 1 & 2 2009



Overview of Research Plans

Formative Research

- Validation study of reporting of MC status (2009, 2010)
- Evaluation of the informed consent process (2009, 2010)
- Determinants of MC uptake or intent for MC (PSI 2009)

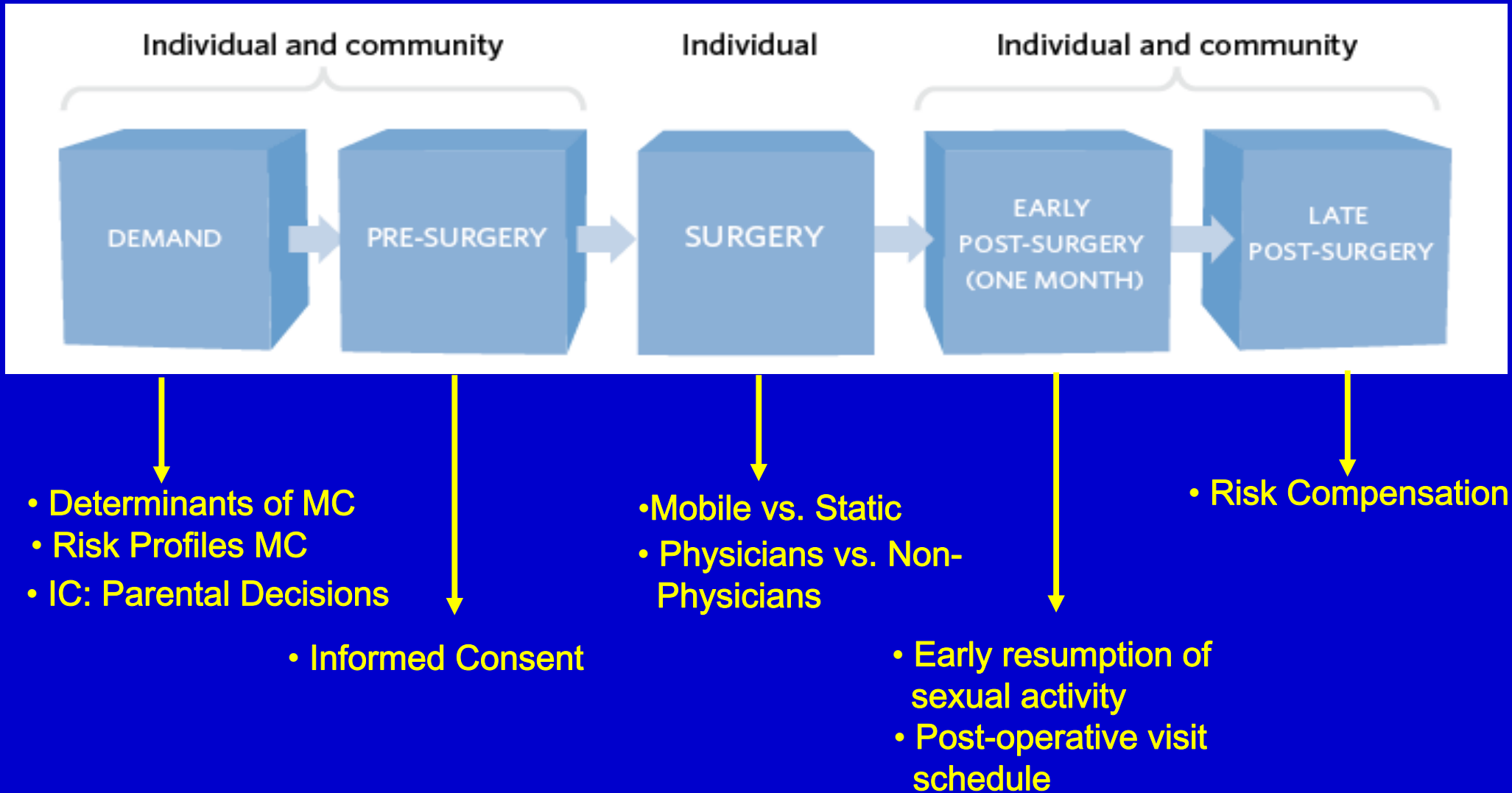
Impact Evaluation

- Longitudinal cohort study of risk compensation (2009-2012)

Operations Research (2010-2012)

- Assessment of cost and quality of fixed/mobile clinics, physicians/non-physicians provision of MC
- Optimal post-operative visit schedule
- Methods Improving informed consent

OR Conceptual Framework



Formative Research: Validation Study

Study Objectives

- Provide recommendations for improving the validity of self-reported MC status
- Inform the PSI TRaC surveys and PC longitudinal behavioral surveys

Specific Objectives

- Assess the improvement in MC reports when an illustration is provided versus a verbal description of MC
- Assess the improvement in MC reports with audio-computer assisted self-interview (ACASI) versus face-to-face interviews
- Determine if MC self-reports vary by type (traditional vs. medical) and completeness of MC

Formative Research: Validation Study

Study Design

Control

Face-to-Face

Verbal
Description

Experimental 1

Face-to-Face

Verbal
Description

Illustration

Experimental 2

ACASI

Verbal
Description

Illustration

- Men aged 18-34 and their female partners; male adolescents aged 13-17 years
- Zambia (Lusaka N=1125, Northern Regional N=600); Swaziland (Mbabane, Manzini N=855)
- Validated of reports by clinician assessment

Formative Research: Informed Consent

Study Objective

- Provide recommendations for standardizing and streamlining the IC process, while adhering to WHO, UNAIDs and other accepted IC guidelines

Specific Objectives

- Investigate the IC process for males (adult and minors) who have recently undergone MC
- Assess male clients' comprehension of key concepts in the IC process: partial efficacy, condom use, risks/benefits
- Examine the attitudes and opinions of parents/guardians whose minors are circumcised and their experience of the IC process
- Explore attitudes and opinions of parents/guardians who have elected not to have their minors circumcised

Formative Research: Informed Consent

Study Design

- Semi-structured interviews with MC clients (N=30 adults, N=30 adolescents) at 1st post-op visit
- Focus group discussions (FGDs) with parents of minors (MC uptake and refused MC)
- Client and provider observation
- Comprehension assessment of MC clients (N=300 adult men)
- Informal discussions with key MC stakeholders

Determinants of Demand (PSI)

Objective

- Inform demand creation: recruitment methods, messaging

Determinants Framework

- Opportunity: availability, perceived quality of care, norms
- Ability: knowledge, expected outcomes (HIV risk, sexual pleasure, hygiene, appearance), social support
- Motivation: beliefs, willingness to pay

Design

- Nationally representative TRaC surveys
- Cross-sectional
- Zambia and Swaziland

Longitudinal Behavioral Study

Study objectives

- Assess whether MC men are resuming sexual relations prior to wound healing (6 weeks)
- Compare risk behavior among circumcised men and their partners pre and post operatively
- Compare whether age of sexual initiation differs for circumcised and uncircumcised adolescents
- Assess differential risk profiles of those who decide to be circumcised and those who do not
- Determine if women's negotiating power concerning sexual behavior changes after MC

Longitudinal Behavioral Study

Key indicators

- Timing of resumption of sexual activity (post-operative)
- Consistency of condom use
- Number and concurrency of partnerships
- Frequency of sex acts
- Age at sexual initiation (adolescents)
- Women's agency and decision making ability regarding sex

Longitudinal Behavioral Study

Study Design (Zambia and Swaziland)

- ~ 800 men (circumcised, uncircumcised)
- ~ 800 partners of study men
- ~ 800 adolescent males (circumcised, uncircumcised)
- ~ 400 adolescent females
- Observation: baseline, 12, and 24 months
- Observation: 6 weeks (circumcised men/boys)
- Ages: 18 – 29 adults; 13 – 17 adolescents
- Audio-CASI for sensitive questions
- 40 qualitative interviews

Operations Research

Potential OR Studies:

- Fixed versus mobile MC services: Assess the quality and cost
- Physicians versus non-physicians: Evaluate the quality and cost
- Assess the optimal post-op visit schedule
 - single visit vs. multiple visits
 - comparison of follow-up and AE rates
- Improving Informed consent: Assess whether self-instruction via an interactive technology is better for informed consent comprehension than a standard video

Operational Challenges

- **Human resource constraints - within existing public sector sites and for recruiting staff for dedicated services**
- **Educating/informing public of site locations w/out creating unmet need**
- **Dealing with unknowns around client behavior post-MC and how to effectively "counsel" them w/o sufficient data**
- **Supply chain management to sites across all sectors**