



# Proof of Principle for a New HIV Microbicide in Study Among Primates

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New research has achieved a proof of principle that an investigatory microbicide gel is highly effective at preventing vaginal transmission of HIV, ScienceDaily Reports. Scientists from the European Combined Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Microbicides (CHAARM) Consortium published their study of non-human primates in the Open Access journal of PLOS Pathogens.

The researchers engineered peptides known as “miniCD4s” that mimic the CD4 co-receptor HIV binds to before entering the immune cell. The peptides succeed in preventing transmission by effectively becoming a decoy the virus binds to instead of to the body’s cells. After studying the miniCD4s’ efficacy in a petri dish and in tissue models that mimic mucous membranes, researchers formulated a 0.3 percent microbicide gel and inserted it into the vaginas of six cynomolgus macaques monkeys an hour before then inserting a high dose of HIV. While that dose of the virus would ordinarily infect all the monkeys, in this case it only infected one.

To read the ScienceDaily article, [click here](#).

To read the study, [click here](#).