

CYBERSENGA PHASE EIGHT RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL: YOUTH ASSENT FORM

Background/ Purpose

You are one of 400 students being asked to take part in the CyberSenga project. CyberSenga is an Internet program for adolescents about HIV. There are five lessons. We need to test the program to see if it helps adolescents make safer choices and prevent HIV.

Procedures

The CyberSenga project will take place at your school, in the afternoons after classes.

Students will be assigned to one of two study groups by a computer program. Each student has an equal chance to be placed in either study group.

Study Group 1 will be asked to do a survey on the computer three times. The first survey will be completed in the next couple of weeks. The second survey will be completed at the beginning of Second Term, and the final survey will be done at the beginning of Third Term.

Study Group 2 will be asked to do the same surveys as Group 1. Study Group 2 also will be asked to do the CyberSenga program. Students will work on the computer one hour each week for five weeks in First Term. They will complete one more hour of the CyberSenga program in Second Term. Each student will be assigned a particular day and will need to report to the CyberSenga project on that day.

Students in both Study Groups will complete the same surveys. Questions will include things about their experience with computers and cell phones, and things about their relationships with friends and boyfriends or girlfriends. Topics will include playing sex, abstinence, and condom use. Students assigned to the CyberSenga program also will answer questions about their experience with the Internet program.

Risks and Discomforts

The risks of participating in the study are low. It is possible that you might feel frustrated if you have trouble doing something on the computer that we ask you to do. Some of the questions we ask in the survey, or the information we talk about in the CyberSenga program may make you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. It also is possible that you might feel tired of the project. If any of these things happen, you can (a) take a rest or (b) stop completely.

Benefits

You may learn things to help you make choices to keep yourself healthy. In addition, the knowledge gained about the CyberSenga program might help others lead healthier lives and, consequently, might decrease the spread of HIV.

Compensation

If you finish all three surveys, you will earn a Completion Certificate. You shall not be paid to participate in the research project.

Confidentiality

Only researchers will be able to see your answers. Your name will not be used in any reports or articles we publish. We will not tell your parents, your teachers at school, or anyone else the answers that you give during the study.

All computer files will be protected with a password. This will protect your privacy.

It is possible that your privacy will be broken. We will do everything we can to not let this happen.

Rights of Refusal and Withdrawal

Taking part in this research project is your choice. If you do not want to take part in the research project, you do not have to.

If you change your mind after you have started the research project and you decide you don't want to continue taking part, you are free to stop. This decision will not change your marks in school or any future medical care.

Questions and Contact Numbers

If you don't understand something, or if you want more information, please ask now.

If you have questions about the research project, you may contact Ruth Birungi, the Study Coordinator on telephone number: 0701 383 084. You may visit her at the study offices located at Internet Solutions for Kids-Uganda, Plot 97, Stanley Road, Kashaka building, Second floor next to Stanbic Bank Mbarara branch.

If you have questions about your rights as a student taking part in the research project, you may call Emmanuel Kyagaba, Chairman of the Institutional Ethical Review Committee of Mbarara University of Science and Technology on telephone number: 0772 433 697.

Signatures

I understand the information above. I have been able to ask questions. All questions have been answered. I would like to take part in the research project. I know that I can stop at any time. If I stop, it will not change my marks in school or future medical care.

I agree to take part in this research project.

Signature of the Student

Date

Name of the Student