

## Starpharma's new condom gel will fight STIs

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**Singapore:** Australia's biotechnology company, Starpharma has received a regulatory approval for the sale of its revolutionary new product in the country.

The company has developed a virus-fighting VivaGel, a range of revolutionary condoms, featuring a gel that attacks sexually transmitted viruses.

The company said that they developed the unique gel with the hope of reducing the growing prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

In an official statement, the company explained that the VivaGel lubricant attacks viruses that cause STIs such as HIV, genital herpes and human papillomavirus. Laboratory tests have shown the gel can inactivate up to 99.9 percent of those three STIs.

Further, it added that Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration had approved the use of VivaGel on condoms, paving the way for them to go on sale within months. The company added that the gel will be used on a new line of Ansell condoms sold in Australia.

This, the company said was the second regulatory approval Starpharma has received for VivaGel condoms. The company had received approval from Japanese authorities to license the gel to Okamoto Industries, Japan's leading marketer of condoms earlier this year.

Further, Starpharma said the approval by Australian authorities should support its applications to other regulators overseas regarding the use of VivaGel on condoms. The US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) had earlier paved the way for Starpharma to carry two key phase 3 clinical trial of VivaGel as a treatment for bacterial vaginosis.