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AIDS gels may work

WASHINGTON: Researchers trying to find a way to protect women from the AIDS virus said on Monday they had evidence that protective gels might work.

The study presented at a meeting of AIDS experts in Canada show slow progress in finding ways to slow the pandemic of deadly human immunodeficiency virus, which infects 33 million people globally and which has killed 25 million.

Dr Salim Abdool Karim of the Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa and colleagues tested a gel made by Massachusetts-based Indevus Pharmaceuticals called PRO 2000 in a study involving 3,000 women.

They are trying to find a microbicide — a gel or cream that women and perhaps men can use to protect themselves against the AIDS virus.

PRO 2000 reduced the rate of HIV infection by a third, they told the meeting. — Reuters