

USE EFFECTIVENESS OF COPPER-T

by

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Introduction

Now-a-days Copper T, an intrauterine contraceptive device is being used popularly. Zipper *et al* (1969) has reported that addition of metallic copper to an intrauterine devices enhances the contraceptive effectiveness. Tatum (1973) has also reported that copper T has got better use effectiveness than loop D.

The present study was done to study the use effectiveness of copper T. The result of 342 insertions with a follow-up on every patients for 12 months are described.

Material and Method

Patients for this study was selected from the patients attending the postpartum family welfare outdoor of Hospital for Women, Patna Medical College Hospital. All the patients of this series were of proved fertility and were without demonstrable pelvic pathology. Copper T intrauterine contraceptive device was inserted as a method for spacing childbirth. These patients were advised to come for follow-up after 1 week of insertion. Thereafter follow-up examination was

done monthly for 3 months and every 3 months thereafter or any other time if she has any side-effects.

Speculum and bimanual examinatinns were done during follow-up visits. The results were analysd in January, 1981.

TABLE I

	No. of cases	Percentage
1 Total number of insertions	342	
2 Lost for follow-up	22	6.5
3 Active at the end of study	320	93.5
4 Expulsion	17	5.3
5 Pregnancy	1	0.3
6 Removal due to side-effects	12	03.7

Results

In this series of clinical study of Copper T users, follow-up incidence is 93.5 per cent. In our series, expulsion rate was 5.3 per cent, removal rate due to side effects was 3.7 per cent. There was only 1 case of pregnancy with copper T in the whole series. In our series there was I case of displament of Copper T inside the uterus. There was no case of perforation and displacement of loop outside the uterus. Details about side effects have been shown in Table II.

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TABLE II
Details of Removal Due to Side-effects

Side effects	No. of cases	Percentage
1 Continuous bleeding since insertion	3	0.9
2 Menorrhagia	6	1.8
3 Pain in lower abdomen	3	0.9
4 Excessive vaginal discharge	3	0.9
5 Displacement — Outside the uterus	Nil	—
— Inside the uterus	1	0.3

Discussion

In this series it has been observed that Copper T produces less side-effects. Tatum (1972) has observed that performance of copper T is better than Lippes loop. He has reported 2.2% pregnancy rate in Copper T users but in our series pregnancy rate is only 0.3%. He has reported perforation of cervix by transverse arm of T, but no such accident occurred in our series. But in our series, in 1 patient there was displacement of Copper T inside the uterus. The longitudinal axis of Copper T had become horizontal to the longitudinal axis of the uterus. Gulati and Majumdar (1975) has also reported less incidence removal rate in Copper T series as against Lippes loop, in our series also removal rate is only 3.7%. Deshmukh, *et al* (1977) have also reported that removal rate due to side effects in Copper T users was 6.4%. In our series removal rate due to side effects is 3.7%.

Conclusion

By studying the series we can say that Copper T has got better use effectiveness than other intrauterine contraceptive

devices. In this series we have found expulsion rate 5.3%, pregnancy rate 0.3% and removal due to side effects 3.7%.

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