

PROFILE OF WOMEN UNDERGOING IUD INSERTIONS THREE OR MORE TIMES

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SUMMARY

Data was collected retrospectively from 64 women attending one of the IRR clinics who have opted for IUD insertions (n=227) ranging from 3 to 6 times as a method of family planning. The different types of IUDs used were Lippes loop, Cu-7, Cu-R, Soonawala's Cu-Y, Multiload Cu device and Cu-T 200 L. The IUD use was not necessarily continuous. Women with intervening MTPs/pregnancies or use of other methods of contraception were also included for analysis.

70.3% of women were over 35 years of age, 59.4% of them had 2 living children. 95.3% had completed the desired family size and did not want more children. Contraceptive protection was achieved for 10 to 15 years in 40.7% of women who opted for long-term use of the device, 26.5% of closures were due to medical reasons. Our experience shows that women are willing to use IUDs again following removal for medical complaints like expulsion, bleeding, abdominal pain etc. provided they are treated promptly and counselled adequately. The number of women requesting for IUDs as a long-term method of contraception is gradually increasing. Women are willing to continue using the device till no further contraceptive protection is required, some of them using it upto menopause.

INTRODUCTION

The IUD is one of the most commonly used reversible methods of birth

control, with an estimated 85 million users worldwide. However, despite all the reassuring data on IUD safety and efficacy, IUDs continue to be an underutilised method of contraception in many parts of the world (Outlook - Sept. 92). The safety, effectiveness and acceptability of the currently available IUDs depend partly on the device itself but even more on the quality of IUD services (Pop. Rep. B(5)). In India, the acceptance of IUD as a method of contraception is only 6.3% out of the 43.3% couples who are effectively protected. (Year Book 1989-1990 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

In India, though many women still fear IUD insertions and attribute ill-health and non-IUD related complaints to its use, there is a gradual increase in the number of women using IUDs. (Contraception 1994).

Our study reveals the profile of women who have desired and achieved long-term contraceptive protection by undergoing IUD insertions three and more times.

MATERIAL AND METHOD :

Data has been collected retrospectively (January 1973 to December 1993) from 64 women who have opted for IUD insertions (n=227) ranging from 3 to 6 times as a method of family planning at one of the clinics of the Institute for Research in Reproduction, Mumbai. The different types of IUDs used were Lippes loop, Cu-R, Cu-7, Soonawala's Cu-Y, Multiload Cu and Cu-T 200 L. The type of device that was inserted depended on the availability on the device in the clinic at the time of insertion. The IUD use was not necessarily continuous. Most women had history of intervening MTPs/pregnancies or use of other methods of contraception. All women had Papanicolaou smears done regularly.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Table I shows the distribution of acceptors by age. 70.3% of women were over 35 years of age at the time

**TABLE I
DISTRIBUTION OF ACCEPTORS BY AGE**

Age (in years)	Number	Percentage
20-25	1	1.6
26-30	7	10.9
31-35	11	17.2
36-40	22	34.4
41-45	19	29.7
46-50	4	6.2
Total	64	100.0

70.3

TABLE II
DISTRIBUTION OF ACCEPTORS BY
NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN

Living children	Number	Percentage	
1	5	7.8	
2	38	59.4	
3	17	26.6	} 32.8
4	4	6.2	
Total	64	100.0	

TABLE III
TOTAL IUD INSERTIONS PER WOMAN (>3)

IUD insertions	Number	Percentage
3	36	56.2
4	22	34.4
5	5	7.8
6	1	1.6
Total	64	100.0

of data analysis in active cases, and at the time of last IUD removal, in closed cases. Table II shows the distribution of acceptors by number of living children at the time of analysis. 59.4% of women had 2 living children and 32.8% had 3 to 4 living children 95.3% of women had completed the desired family size and did not want any more

TABLE IV
TOTAL DURATION OF CONTRACEPTIVE
PROTECTION ACHIEVED BY IUD

Contraceptive protection (in year)	Number	Percentage
0 - 5.0	7	10.9
5.1 - 10.0	23	35.9
10.1 - 15.0	26	40.7
15.1 - 20.0	6	9.4
20.1 - 25.0	2	3.1
Total	64	100.0

children. Table III shows the total number of IUD insertions per woman (>3 insertions). Of the 6 women who have had 5 or 6 IUD insertions, one has undergone sterilisation and the remaining 5 women are still using the IUD as they do not want to get sterilised. Table IV show the total duration of contraceptive protection achieved by IUD use. Contraceptive protection was achieved for 10 to 15 years in 40.7% women who opted for long-term use of the device. Papanicolaou smear reports in these women were not associated with progressive abnormal cytology. Table V shows the reasons for closures taking into consideration all the 227 insertions in 64 women. 15.4% of women are still using the IUD (active) whereas 84.6% of them have got the IUD

removed at the time of data analysis. 26.5% of closures were due to medical reasons. Our experience shows that women are willing for IUD insertion even following removals for medical complaints like expulsion, bleeding, abdominal pain provided they are treated promptly and counselled. It is worth noting that 2 women had IUD perforation. One woman underwent surgical removal of the IUCD along with sterilisation and the other woman who had cervical perforation used IUDs on three more occasions following removal of the perforated device. Also, of the 3 women who had a method failure, one woman opted for sterilisation whereas the other two opted for IUD insertion following MTP procedure. Thus our data shows that many women are willing to use IUD

TABLE V
REASONS FOR CLOSURE

Type of Termination	Number	Percentage
MEDICAL REASONS		
Pregnancy	3	1.3
Expulsion	29	12.8
Bleeding / abdominal pain	16	7.0
Infection	-	-
Perforation	2	0.9
Pricking/broken thread/ Thread not seen	6	2.7
Backache, leucorrhoea, erosion	4	1.8
		26.5
NON-MEDICAL REASONS		
Planning pregnancy	38	16.7
Change of device	65	28.6
Change of method	11	4.8
Sterilisation	6	2.6
Personal	6	2.6
Husband seperated / expired	4	1.8
Menopause	2	0.9
Active	35	15.4
Total	227	100.0

again in spite of removal for IUD related medical complaints.

Among the removals for non-medical reasons 12 women required IUD removal as they no longer needed contraceptive protection, 2 women got the IUD removed 1 year after cessation of period (menopause), 4 women

got IUD removed following spouse's death and 6 women opted for sterilisation. Our experience shows that the number of women requesting IUD as a long-term method of contraceptive is increasing. They want to continue using IUD even after desired family size is achieved using the device till no

further contraceptive protection is required, some of them using it upto menopause. These women would serve as good example to other women who fear IUD insertion. Proper counselling of women using IUDs, regular follow-up, prompt management of side-effects when required and a good rapport with the women play a very important role in women accepting IUDs.

REFERENCES

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CASE REPORT

AN UNUSUAL
OUTCOME IN AN IUD
BENEFICIAL INTERFERED
PREGNANCE

...in the first trimester...
...the patient...
...the IUD...
...the pregnancy...
...the outcome...
...the management...
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