Prior contraceptive experiences of Canadian women undergoing second-trimester abortion

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Introduction
We sought to understand the demographic characteristics and past contraceptive experiences, as well as the acceptability of highly effective contraception, among Canadian women seeking second trimester abortion.

Method
At every abortion clinic in BC, women seeking second trimester abortion (12 to 24 weeks gestation) and selecting either of two IUC as their preferred contraception method were enrolled as part of a larger trial and randomized to intervention timing either immediately or four weeks post abortion. See publication protocol. Enrolled participants completed a Contraception Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ) detailing prior contraceptive satisfaction. Analysis used the statistical software R.

Key Point

Offering comprehensive information on the range of contraceptive methods as well as cost-free IUCs at the time of abortion is an effective strategy to increase uptake of Highly-Effective Reversible Contraception (HER-C) among Canadian women.

1813 women assessed: 1500 (83%) met eligibility criteria; IUC was chosen for post-abortion contraception by over half (792/1500, 53%), and 59.8% (474/792) chose to enrol.

Most recent contraceptive methods used

Conclusions

- Two-thirds of women seeking second trimester abortion were using a contraception method at conception;
- almost a third of these were using methods in the lower two tiers of effectiveness.
- There was a weak correlation between prior contraceptive compliance and education level.
- More than half of eligible women seeking a second-trimester abortion chose an IUC for post-abortion contraception when offered without cost.

Acknowledgement

This study would not be possible without the support and collaboration of all of BC’s abortion clinics and their staff and physicians, which we acknowledge here and for which we are very grateful. We seek to thank the staff working on this project: Evelyn Kwo, Melanie Luan, Samantha Hert, Kate Macdonald, Guido Minnea, Elena Alexiey, Ali Maljukadi, Kaylee Gray, Alida Gray, Arizona Kowalsk, Sabina Hu and Natasha Hoft, and our research coordinator, Dr. Walburga Chou. This study is chaired by a CIHR operating grant, and by the donation of all LNG IUC devices (Mirena®) by Bayer Inc., a small sole contribution to the study.

Citations


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Participants Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Age (n)</th>
<th>Average Age (Intention to Treat)</th>
<th>Immediate Intention</th>
<th>Delayed Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.7(5.6)</td>
<td>28.7(5.6)</td>
<td>29.0(5.5)</td>
<td>28.5(5.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Gestational Age (n)</th>
<th>Average Gestational Age (Intention to Treat)</th>
<th>Immediate Intention</th>
<th>Delayed Intention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.7(5.6)</td>
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<td>29.0(5.5)</td>
<td>28.5(5.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any Prior Birth</th>
<th>Any Prior Abortion</th>
<th>Chlamydia-Pos</th>
<th>Sildenafil-completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.006(0.00)</td>
<td>0.999(0.00)</td>
<td>0.999(0.00)</td>
<td>0.999(0.00)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Most effective</th>
<th>% of contraceptive users</th>
<th>Women using more than one method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1</td>
<td>IUC</td>
<td>8 (1.7)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female sterilization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 (25.0)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 2</th>
<th>Oral Contraception</th>
<th>Condoms</th>
<th>Diaphragm</th>
<th>Spermicide</th>
<th>Fertility awareness</th>
<th>Emergency contraception pill</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>189 (41.6)</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>66 (33.2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>93 (19.7)</td>
<td>29.5</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 3</th>
<th>Tier 4</th>
<th>Type Not Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>156 (33.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Proportions chi-squared test, Yates or Fisher’s exact test.
2. Means: Student’s t-test and Analysis of Variance.
3. Correlations: Spearman’s coefficient.
4. A CSQ Scale.
5. A pilot phase study developed the CSQ from an existing validated questionnaire, including translation into Cantonese, Mandarin and Punjabi.
6. CSQ questions evaluate participant’s prior contraceptive satisfaction on eight scales, each yielding a score out of 100:

- Overall effectiveness
- Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Satisfactory

Higher scores indicate increased satisfaction.

Current Controlled Trials: ISRCTN19506752

1. IUC = Intrauterine contraception
2. CSQ = Contraception Satisfaction Questionnaire

References