

1 **Risk Factors and the Choice of Long-acting Reversible Contraception Following Medical**  
2 **Abortion – Effect on Subsequent Induced Abortion and Unwanted Pregnancy**

3

4

5 **Riina Korjamo, M.D., Oskari Heikinheimo, M.D., Prof., Maarit Mentula, M.D., Ph.D.**

6

7 Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Helsinki and Helsinki University  
8 Hospital, Helsinki, Finland

9

10

11

12 Address for correspondence:

13 Maarit Mentula, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Kätilöopisto Hospital, Helsinki

14 University Hospital, P.O. Box 610, 00029-HUS, Helsinki, Finland

15 E-Mail: [maarit.mentula@helsinki.fi](mailto:maarit.mentula@helsinki.fi)

16

17 Word count 2806/3500

18 **Abstract (250 words)**

19 **Risk Factors and the Choice of Long-acting Reversible Contraception Following Medical**  
20 **Abortion – Effect on Subsequent Induced Abortion and Unwanted Pregnancy**

21

22 **Objective:** To analyse the post-abortion effect of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC)  
23 plans and initiation on the risk of subsequent unwanted pregnancy and abortion.

24 **Materials and methods:** A retrospective cohort study of 666 women who underwent medical  
25 abortion between January–May 2013 at Helsinki University Hospital, Finland. Altogether 159  
26 (23.8%) women planning post-abortion use of levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (LNG-  
27 IUS) participated in a randomized study and had an opportunity to receive the LNG-IUS free-of-  
28 charge from the hospital. The other 507(76.2%) women planned and obtained their contraception  
29 according to clinical routine. Demographics, planned contraception, and LARC initiation at the time  
30 of the index abortion were collected. Data on subsequent abortions were retrieved from the Finnish  
31 Abortion Register and electronic patient files until the end of 2014.

32 **Results:** During the 21 months ([median], IQR 20–22) follow-up, 54(8.1%) women requested  
33 subsequent abortions. When adjusted for age, previous pregnancies, deliveries, induced abortions,  
34 and gestational-age, planning LARC for post-abortion contraception failed to prevent subsequent  
35 abortion (33 abortions/360 women,9.2%) compared to other contraceptive plans (21/306, 6.9%)  
36 (HR1.22, 95%CI 0.68–2.17). However, verified LARC initiation decreased the abortion rate (4  
37 abortions/177 women,2.3%) compared to women with uncertain LARC initiation status (50/489,  
38 10.2%) (HR0.17, 95%CI 0.06–0.48). When adjusted for LARC initiation status, age <25 years was a  
39 risk factor for subsequent abortion (27 abortions/283 women,9.5%) compared to women  $\geq$ 25 years  
40 (27/383, 7.0%, HR1.95, 95%CI 1.04–3.67).

41 **Conclusions:** Initiation of LARC as part of abortion service at the time of medical abortion is an  
42 important means to prevent subsequent abortion, especially among young women.

43 **Keywords:** abortion, termination of pregnancy, repeat abortion, long-acting reversible

44 contraception

45

46 **Running head:** (48/50 characters)

47 Risk factors and LARC following medical abortion

48

49 **Introduction**

50 Recent estimates show that almost half of the pregnancies in the USA are unintended and about  
51 40% of them end up in abortion [1]. Induced abortion is often a consequence of inadequate  
52 contraception and the reasons not to use contraception originate from lack of correct information  
53 [2]. Women undergoing an induced abortion are at higher risk for a subsequent induced abortion  
54 [3]. Although abortion incidence has declined in the developed world [4,5], the rate of repeat  
55 abortion has not decreased [6]. In research studies, the reported rates of subsequent induced  
56 abortions have been 5%, 11%, and 20% at one, two, and four years after the index abortion,  
57 respectively [7,8]. The number of repeat induced abortions should be diminished, as they increase  
58 the risk of needing surgical interventions and preterm delivery [9,10–13]. Long-acting reversible  
59 contraceptives (LARC), including intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants, are associated with the  
60 lowest incidence of subsequent abortion [3,14,15], especially if initiated at the time of the abortion  
61 [8,16,17].

62  
63 Several interventions have been performed to increase the uptake of LARC after induced abortion.  
64 Contraceptive counselling alone has not increased LARC uptake [18]. Yet women are motivated to  
65 choose LARC at the time of abortion, especially if they have a recent history of induced abortion  
66 [19]. Studies suggest that the reduction of financial barriers may facilitate women to initiate LARC  
67 methods [20–23]. Also, minimizing the number of visits needed increases LARC uptake; the effect  
68 is well documented for surgical abortion [3,14,15,17,24,25]. However, increasing use of medical  
69 instead of surgical abortion has challenged the option to initiate LARC methods immediately.  
70 Initiation may be delayed 3-4 weeks after the abortion, if a conservative protocol is followed.  
71 Studies have shown that immediate insertion of the etonogestrel-implant shortly after mifepristone  
72 intake at the initial visit for abortion did not affect the efficacy of medical abortion, but increased  
73 the implant initiation rate [26,27]. Similar effects are evident in response to shortening the interval

74 between medical abortion and IUD insertion, and offering it as a part of abortion service [8,28,29].  
75 We recently performed a randomized clinical trial that demonstrated the feasibility and safety of the  
76 fast-track ( $\leq 3$  days) insertion of a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) during  
77 medical induced abortion [30,31]. Moreover, immediate insertion resulted in better one-year  
78 continuation rates than later LNG-IUS insertion [16].

79

80 In this cohort study we assessed factors affecting the selection and initiation of LARC for post-  
81 abortion contraception at the time of medical induced abortion. We also analysed the effect of  
82 planned *vs.* initiated contraception on the risks of subsequent unwanted pregnancy and induced  
83 abortion both for LARCs and for other contraceptives.

84

## 85 **Materials and Methods**

86 This retrospective cohort study analyses the effects of contraceptive plans and initiation after  
87 medical induced abortion. The study was performed in tandem with a randomized study assessing  
88 immediate *vs.* later provision of free-of-charge LNG-IUS (Mirena®, Bayer AG, Turku, Finland)  
89 [30,31]. The study population consisted of adult ( $\geq 18$  years) women undergoing medical abortion  
90 up to 20 weeks of gestation during January 17<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 at the Department of Obstetrics  
91 and Gynaecology of the Helsinki University Hospital, Finland. The recruitment for randomised  
92 controlled trial occurred after contraceptive counselling among women showing interest in LNG-  
93 IUS contraception. During the study period all women showing interest in LNG-IUS contraception  
94 and meeting the inclusion criteria had an opportunity to participate to the study.

95

96 Medical induced abortion was performed using oral mifepristone 200 mg and misoprostol 400 to  
97 800 mcg 1-3 days later according to the Finnish national guidelines [32]. Medical abortions up to 9

98 weeks of gestation (up to 63 days of amenorrhea) can be performed partially at home where  
99 misoprostol is self-administered by the patient. Later abortions were performed at the hospital ward.

100

101 During the randomized trial [30,31] the LNG-IUS was offered either immediately (*i.e.*  $\leq 3$  days) or  
102 2–4 weeks after the abortion. If the woman did not participate in the trial, the LNG-IUS, copper-  
103 IUD (Cu-IUD, Nova T380, Bayer Pharma AG, Berlin, Germany), or contraceptive implant  
104 (Nexplanon®, N.V. Organon, Oss, Netherlands) was offered from the hospital free-of-charge in  
105 cases of previous induced abortions. During the study period two cities of the hospital district,  
106 namely Helsinki and Vantaa, were offering the first contraceptive LNG-IUS, Cu-IUD, or implant  
107 free-of-charge, but the insertion occurred at the primary health care at a separate visit scheduled by  
108 the woman herself. These visits may be made up to three months after the first contact. We did not  
109 have access to information on these possible insertions. Thus, all verified LARC insertions in this  
110 study were free-of-charge. If the woman was planning other than LARC for post abortion  
111 contraception, a three-month start-up package of pills, patch, or ring was provided from the hospital  
112 liberally, but otherwise the patient had to buy contraception herself.

113

114 Finnish law and guidelines on induced abortion, require contraceptive counselling before induced  
115 abortion [32]. Moreover, planned contraception, along with selected sociodemographic and  
116 abortion-related data are reported to the national Abortion Register. The register has been validated,  
117 and proven to be reliable and of high-quality [33,34].

118

119 The abortion procedure in Finland consists of two visits: first visit occurring at the primary health  
120 care or private sector, and second at the hospital outpatient clinic. All women receive contraceptive  
121 counselling during both these visits, LARC presentation being an important part of the counselling.  
122 Data concerning planned contraception and background factors was collected as a part of the

123 randomized study, or from electronic patient records of the hospital system, and were completed  
124 from the Abortion Register. “*LARC presented*” is defined as LARC was recommended or presented  
125 to the woman and this was mentioned in the electronic patient files. “*LARC planned*” means that  
126 woman was recruited to the randomized study or the woman confirmed that LARC was planned for  
127 post-abortion contraception. “*LARC initiated*” means that initiation was verified as a part of the  
128 randomized study, or the insertion occurred in the hospital within one month following the abortion.

129

130 Marital status was divided into categories of single, cohabiting, and married. Socio-economic status  
131 was presented as white-collar workers, blue-collar workers, students (level of education not  
132 defined), and other or not known according to the stated occupation or the highest education level  
133 reported. The coding was based on national standards (Statistics Finland). Ethnicity was available  
134 from the hospital files and is presented as groups of native Finnish and others.

135

136 Information on subsequent pregnancies was derived from patient clinical records and The Finnish  
137 Abortion Register at the end of 2014. If woman was requesting subsequent abortion, but the  
138 pregnancy was diagnosed as a miscarriage or an ectopic, the pregnancy was defined as unwanted.

139

140 This study was approved by the hospital system of Helsinki and Uusimaa, and National Institute of  
141 Health and Welfare. The clinical trial was approved by the local Ethics Committee and registered to  
142 [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (NCT01755715).

143

#### 144 *Statistics*

145 Categorical data were analysed by cross tabulation and p-values calculated by Chi-square test.

146 Kaplan-Meier analysis and Log-Rank test was used to describe subsequent unwanted pregnancies.

147 Survival analysis and hazard ratios were analysed by Cox's regression model. All analyses were  
148 performed with IBM SPSS statistical software version 24.

149

## 150 **Results**

### 151 *Study Population*

152 Total of 666 women underwent medical abortion, representing 92.2% of all women undergoing an  
153 induced abortion during the study period (Figure 1). Demographics of the women are presented in  
154 Table 1. Most women were 20 to 35 years old, of normal weight and half of them smoked regularly.  
155 Almost 60% of them had a history of previous pregnancy and one third a history of induced  
156 abortion. Three out of four underwent early medical abortion (gestational age  $\leq 63$  days) and one out  
157 of four participated in the randomized trial. Detailed demographics of the women participating in  
158 the randomized study have been published previously [30, 31]. Briefly, women participating in the  
159 randomized trial (n=159) compared to non-RCT-women (n=507) in this cohort belonged to older  
160 age-groups (21–24 year olds 33 [20.8%] vs. 132 [26.0%]; 25–29 year olds 47 [29.6%] vs. 94  
161 [18.5%], other groups data not shown, p=0.02), had more often history of previous pregnancy (113  
162 [71.1%] vs. 282 [55.6%], p=0.001), delivery (91 [57.2%] vs. 205 [40.4%], p<0.001) and induced  
163 abortion (70 [44.0%] vs. 159 [31.4%], p=0.003), and they requested the abortion at later gestational-  
164 age ( $\leq 63$  days 108 [67.9%] vs. 399 [78.7%], 64–84 days 43 [27.0%] vs. 93 [18.3%],  $\geq 85$  days 8  
165 [5.0%] vs. 15 [3.0%], p=0.02).

166

### 167 *Presentation, Planning, and Insertion of Post-abortion LARC*

168 Long-acting contraception was presented to 429 (64.4%) women (Table 2). LARC was presented  
169 more often to women older than 25 years than to women younger than 25 years of age (271/383  
170 [70.8%] vs. 158/283 [55.8%] risk ratio [RR] 1.27, 95% confidence interval [95%CI] 1.12–1.43,  
171 p<0.001). Furthermore, LARC was presented more often to women who were obese and married or



172 cohabiting, had history of pregnancy, delivery or induced abortion, and were requesting second  
173 trimester abortion.

174

175 After the counselling, 360 (54.0%) women were planning initiation of post abortion LARC (Figure  
176 1, Table 2). The most popular method was the LNG-IUS (n=268, 74.4%) and 159 (59.3%) of these  
177 women participated in the randomized study. Contraindication for progestin-containing  
178 contraception was present in only one woman (newly diagnosed breast cancer), whereas  
179 contraindications for intrauterine contraception occurred in four cases (one case of acute  
180 gonorrhoea, two cases of submucosal myomas and one uterus bicornus).

181

182 Altogether 177 (26.6%) women received LARC at the time or within 4 weeks of medical induced  
183 abortion. This represented 49.2% of all women planning LARC. Among the 159 women who  
184 participated in the randomized controlled trial 141 (88.7%) received the LNG-IUS. None of the  
185 women planning other forms of contraception received LARC. Most of these LARCs were LNG-  
186 IUSs (n=149, 84.2%) followed by implants (n=27, 15.3%) and one Cu-IUD. Even though LARC  
187 was planned more often for women older than 25 years, it was initiated similarly in younger and in  
188 older women (Table 2). Women with a history of previous pregnancy (either delivery or abortion)  
189 initiated a LARC more often than women with no such history. Abortion conducted at the hospital  
190 ward (late first-trimester or second trimester abortion) increased the uptake of LARC. Regardless of  
191 plans, native Finnish women initiated LARC more often than women of other ethnic groups. Only  
192 36 of 201 (17.9%) women who planned LARC but did not participate in the randomized study  
193 received LARC compared to 141/159 (88.7%) women participating in the randomized study.

194

195

196

197 *Subsequent Abortion and Unwanted Pregnancy*

198 The median follow-up time was 649 days (IQR 614–679) (i.e. 21 months [20–22]). During the  
199 follow-up, altogether 54 women (8.1%) underwent a subsequent induced abortion. The median time  
200 to subsequent abortion was 336 days (246–450) (i.e. 11 months [8–15]). According to the patient  
201 files, there were five additional unwanted pregnancies: three women were diagnosed with  
202 miscarriage at the time they were requesting subsequent abortion; one woman had an ectopic  
203 pregnancy following the use of emergency contraception; and one pregnancy was diagnosed during  
204 oral contraceptive use following fibroid resection. Table 3 presents the distribution and hazard  
205 ratios of subsequent abortions and unwanted pregnancies according to selected risk factors, and  
206 LARC planning and initiation status. After adjustments, only initiated LARC decreased the rate of  
207 subsequent abortion (hazard ratio [HR] 0.17, 95% confidence interval [95% CI] 0.06–0.48,  
208  $p=0.0008$ ) and unwanted pregnancy (HR 0.15, 95% CI 0.05–0.43,  $p=0.0004$ ). Four unwanted  
209 pregnancies occurred in women who participated in the randomized trial following initiation of  
210 LNG-IUS use. One pregnancy was recognized after an unnoticed expulsion, two LNG-IUSs were  
211 removed before the subsequent pregnancy, and one abortion was performed in a case where LNG-  
212 IUS had been inserted, but the patient never returned for follow-up. Age under 25 years remained  
213 an independent risk factor for both subsequent induced abortion and unwanted pregnancy even after  
214 adjusting LARC initiation status. Kaplan-Meier survival curves (Figure 2) display the effect of  
215 LARC initiation status on subsequent unwanted pregnancy. Verified initiation of LARC reduced the  
216 occurrence of subsequent unwanted pregnancy significantly during the follow-up. Conversely,  
217 planned but not initiated LARC resulted more often in unwanted pregnancy when compared to  
218 initiated LARC or other form of contraception.

219

220

221

222 **Discussion**

223 *Findings and Interpretation*

224 We found that during the nearly two years of follow-up, only initiated LARC decreased the need for  
225 subsequent abortion and unplanned pregnancy, when compared to only planning of LARC, or  
226 initiation of other contraceptive methods at the time of the abortion. Age less than 25 years was an  
227 independent risk factor for subsequent abortion and unwanted pregnancy.

228

229 Previous studies have shown that young age, second trimester abortion, and history of previous  
230 pregnancy, delivery, and induced abortion are risk factors for subsequent induced abortion [3, 35,  
231 36,37]. LARC methods are the most effective in prevention of unintended pregnancy and subsequent  
232 abortion [3,14]. For example, the contraceptive CHOICE project in the U.S. has shown counselling  
233 that highlights LARC methods to be the most effective, and removing cost and access barriers can  
234 increase LARC initiation rates and reduce both total and repeat abortion rates [21,38]. The CHOICE  
235 investigators estimated that contraceptive policy facilitating LARC initiation could prevent up to 41%  
236 to 71% of abortions performed annually in the U.S. [21]. LARC methods have long been liberally  
237 recommended to all women in our clinic in need of contraception. However, in this study information  
238 concerning contraceptive counselling and LARC recommendations is based on retrospective data  
239 collected from patient files. Because of the clinic's long-standing tradition and parallel RCT  
240 recruitment, LARCs may have been discussed more often than recorded in the patient files. Even  
241 though we recommended and presented LARC more often to women older than 25 years of age  
242 compared to younger women, we initiated LARC similarly to both age groups. We speculate this was  
243 mostly due to easy and cost-free access to LNG-IUS insertion as part of the randomized study.

244

245 A key finding of this study is that only planning LARC does not decrease the need for subsequent  
246 abortion. In contrast, the need for effective contraception was highest in this group. However, this

247 may be due to the fact that women with an increased risk of subsequent abortion were successfully  
248 identified and plans to initiate LARC were made. But, as the plans did not lead to LARC initiation,  
249 this resulted in the highest need for another abortion in this group.

250

251 This study has practical implications. It shows that the policy of only discussing LARC, not leading  
252 into LARC initiation, is not effective. This is likely to be associated with the high up-front cost of  
253 LARC methods and structure of the contraceptive service delivery system. None of the women  
254 studied were willing or able to buy LARC beforehand even though this option is available. We are  
255 pleased to note discussion about possible free-of-charge provision of contraception, including  
256 LARC, is currently on-going in Finland [39].

257

### 258 *Strengths and Weaknesses of the Study*

259 The predominant strength of our analysis is that the study population is well representative of the  
260 average Finnish woman seeking abortion; in 2013, the incidence of abortion in Finland was highest  
261 among women aged 20–24 years (of the study population 25% were 20–24 years of age), 36% had  
262 experienced abortion previously (study population 34%), and 49% had a previous delivery (study  
263 population 44%) [40].

264

265 The setting of this study may be retrospective, but the important background characteristics are  
266 reliable and could be identified from the hospital records as they are routinely asked. In the Finnish  
267 healthcare setting, induced abortions are almost always treated in public health care (<6% in private  
268 clinics) (Anna Heino, National Institute for Health and Welfare, personal communication, March  
269 26, 2016) [41]. In addition, the data concerning induced abortions are accurate and reliable, thus  
270 induced abortions can be identified from the Abortion Register [33,34]. Data on additional  
271 unwanted pregnancies was derived from the hospital patient files only, and may thus be

272 underestimated. According to Kaplan-Meier analysis (Figure 2), more accurate detection of  
273 unwanted pregnancies would have increased the differences between the initiated or planned LARC  
274 and other contraceptive plans.

275

276 However, a weakness of the study is that we have no information concerning the LARC initiation  
277 status in the group of women that planned LARC, but it was not initiated at the hospital. This is due  
278 to the fact that women came from several communities with different electronic patient file systems  
279 for which we had no access. Also, some of the LARCs might have been initiated by private  
280 physicians. Furthermore, all boundaries to access of effective contraception in primary healthcare  
281 could not be analysed. For example, it was unknown whether women attended a planned follow-up  
282 visit at primary health care. Previous studies from our group [42] and elsewhere [43] have shown  
283 that up to half of the women do not attend the scheduled post-abortion follow-up.

284

## 285 **Conclusion**

286 Fast-track and easy access initiation of LARC as part of the abortion service provided at the time of  
287 the medical abortion is an important means to prevent subsequent abortion, especially among young  
288 women.

289 **Acknowledgments**

290 We thank research nurse Pirjo Ikonen for her never failing management of the patients during the  
291 randomized study, and Jennifer Rowland for language revision.

292

293 **Funding Details**

294 This work was supported by the research grants from The Hospital District of Helsinki and  
295 Uusimaa, The Finnish Cultural Foundation (February 2014 and February 2017), Finnish-Norwegian  
296 Medical Foundation (June 2016), and Instrumentarium Science Foundation (March 2017). The  
297 funding sources of the study had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data  
298 interpretation, or writing of the report.

299

300 **Declaration of Interest Statement**

301 OH has served on advisory boards for Bayer Healthcare and Gedeon Richter, and designed and  
302 lectured at educational events connected with these companies. OH has also lectured at educational  
303 events organized by Merck/MSD and Sandoz. The other authors (RK and MM) have no conflicts of  
304 interest to declare.

305

306 **References**

307

- 308 1. Finer LB, Zolna MR. Declines in Unintended Pregnancy in the United States, 2008-2011.  
309 *The New England journal of medicine* 2016 Mar 03;374(9):843-52. doi:  
310 10.1056/NEJMsa1506575.
- 311 2. Mosher WD, Jones J. Use of contraception in the United States: 1982-2008. Vital and health  
312 statistics Series 23, Data from the National Survey of Family Growth. 2010 Aug(29):1-44.
- 313 3. Heikinheimo O, Gissler M, Suhonen S. Age, parity, history of abortion and contraceptive  
314 choices affect the risk of repeat abortion. *Contraception* 2008 Aug;78(2):149-54. doi:  
315 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2008.03.013>.
- 316 4. Sedgh G, Bearak J, Singh S, et al. Abortion incidence between 1990 and 2014: global,  
317 regional, and subregional levels and trends. *Lancet* 2016 May 11. doi: 10.1016/s0140-  
318 6736(16)30380-4.
- 319 5. Gissler M, Fronteira I, Jahn A, et al. Terminations of pregnancy in the European Union.  
320 *Bjog* 2012 Feb;119(3):324-32. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2011.03189.x.
- 321 6. National Institute for Health and Welfare. Official Statistics of Finland. Induced Abortions  
322 2015. Published Oct 2016. [cited 2017 Oct 26]. Available from [http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-](http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2016102025429)  
323 [fe2016102025429](http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2016102025429)
- 324 7. Rose SB, Stanley J, Lawton BA. Time to second abortion or continued pregnancy following  
325 a first abortion: a retrospective cohort study. *Hum Reprod* 2015 Jan;30(1):214-21. doi:  
326 10.1093/humrep/deu283.
- 327 8. Pohjoranta E, Mentula M, Gissler M, et al. Provision of intrauterine contraception in  
328 association with first trimester induced abortion reduces the need of repeat abortion: first-  
329 year results of a randomized controlled trial. *Hum Reprod* 2015 Nov;30(11):2539-46. doi:  
330 10.1093/humrep/dev233.

- 331 9. Thorp JM, Jr., Hartmann KE, Shadigian E. Long-term physical and psychological health  
332 consequences of induced abortion: review of the evidence. *Obstetrical & gynecological*  
333 *survey* 2003 Jan;58(1):67-79. doi: 10.1097/01.ogx.0000045217.37578.0b.
- 334 10. Saccone G, Perriera L, Berghella V. Prior uterine evacuation of pregnancy as independent  
335 risk factor for preterm birth: a systematic review and metaanalysis. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.*  
336 2016 May;214(5):572-91. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2015.12.044.
- 337 11. Kc S, Gissler M, Virtanen SM, et al. Risks of Adverse Perinatal Outcomes after Repeat  
338 Terminations of Pregnancy by their Methods: a Nationwide Register-based Cohort Study in  
339 Finland 1996-2013. *Paediatric and perinatal epidemiology* 2017 Aug 16. doi:  
340 10.1111/ppe.12389.
- 341 12. Templeton A, Grimes DA. Clinical practice. A request for abortion. *The New England*  
342 *journal of medicine* 2011 Dec 08;365(23):2198-204. doi: 10.1056/NEJMcp1103639.
- 343 13. ESHRE Capri Workshop Group. Induced abortion. *Hum Reprod* 2017 Jun 01;32(6):1160-  
344 1169. doi: 10.1093/humrep/dex071.
- 345 14. Cameron ST, Glasier A, Chen ZE, et al. Effect of contraception provided at termination of  
346 pregnancy and incidence of subsequent termination of pregnancy. *Bjog* 2012  
347 Aug;119(9):1074-80. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2012.03407.x.
- 348 15. Rose SB, Lawton BA. Impact of long-acting reversible contraception on return for repeat  
349 abortion. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2012 Jan;206(1):37.e1-6. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2011.06.102.
- 350 16. Korjamo R, Mentula M, Heikinheimo O. Immediate vs. delayed initiation of the  
351 levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system following medical termination of pregnancy -  
352 one year continuation rates: A randomised controlled trial. *Bjog* 2017 Jun 26. doi:  
353 10.1111/1471-0528.14802.



- 354 17. Langston AM, Joslin-Roher SL, Westhoff CL. Immediate postabortion access to IUDs,  
355 implants and DMPA reduces repeat pregnancy within 1 year in a New York City practice.  
356 *Contraception* 2014 Feb;89(2):103-8. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2013.10.014.
- 357 18. Langston AM, Rosario L, Westhoff CL. Structured contraceptive counseling--a randomized  
358 controlled trial. *Patient education and counseling* 2010 Dec;81(3):362-7. doi:  
359 10.1016/j.pec.2010.08.006.
- 360 19. Madden T, Secura GM, Allsworth JE, et al. Comparison of contraceptive method chosen by  
361 women with and without a recent history of induced abortion. *Contraception* 2011  
362 Dec;84(6):571-7. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2011.03.018.
- 363 20. Secura GM, Madden T, McNicholas C, et al. Provision of no-cost, long-acting contraception  
364 and teenage pregnancy. *The New England journal of medicine* 2014 Oct 2;371(14):1316-23.  
365 doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1400506.
- 366 21. Peipert JF, Madden T, Allsworth JE, et al. Preventing unintended pregnancies by providing  
367 no-cost contraception. *Obstet Gynecol* 2012 Dec;120(6):1291-7. doi:  
368 <http://10.1097/AOG.0b013e318273eb56>.
- 369 22. Krashin JW, Stuart GS, Garrett J, et al. Contraception Insurance Coverage and Receipt of  
370 Long-Acting Reversible Contraception or Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate on the Day  
371 of Abortion. *Obstet Gynecol* 2017 Jul;130(1):109-117. doi:  
372 10.1097/aog.0000000000002070.
- 373 23. Secura GM, Allsworth JE, Madden T, et al. The Contraceptive CHOICE Project: reducing  
374 barriers to long-acting reversible contraception. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2010  
375 Aug;203(2):115.e1-7. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2010.04.017.
- 376 24. Okusanya BO, Oduwole O, Effa EE. Immediate postabortal insertion of intrauterine devices.  
377 *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2014 Jul 28;7:Cd001777. doi:  
378 10.1002/14651858.CD001777.pub4.

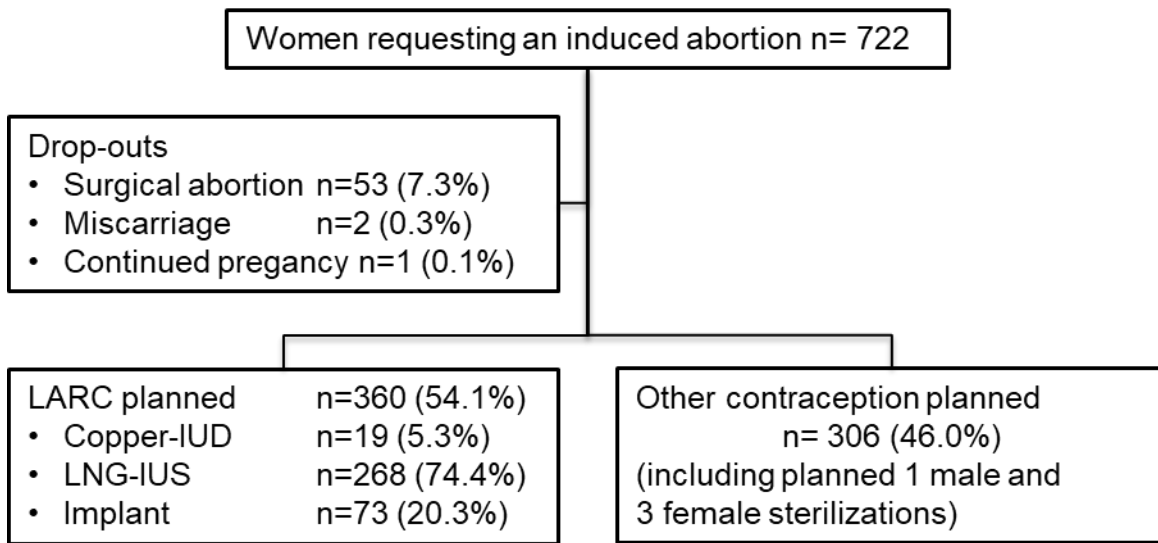
- 379 25. Rose SB, Garrett SM, Stanley J. Immediate postabortion initiation of levonorgestrel  
380 implants reduces the incidence of births and abortions at 2 years and beyond. *Contraception*  
381 2015 Jul;92(1):17-25. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2015.03.012.
- 382 26. Raymond EG, Weaver MA, Tan YL, et al. Effect of Immediate Compared With Delayed  
383 Insertion of Etonogestrel Implants on Medical Abortion Efficacy and Repeat Pregnancy: A  
384 Randomized Controlled Trial. *Obstet Gynecol* 2016 Feb;127(2):306-12. doi:  
385 10.1097/aog.0000000000001274.
- 386 27. Hognert H, Kopp Kallner H, Cameron S, et al. Immediate versus delayed insertion of an  
387 etonogestrel releasing implant at medical abortion-a randomized controlled equivalence  
388 trial. *Hum Reprod* 2016 Sep 22. doi: 10.1093/humrep/dew238.
- 389 28. Cameron ST, Berugoda N, Johnstone A, et al. Assessment of a 'fast-track' referral service  
390 for intrauterine contraception following early medical abortion. *J Fam Plann Reprod Health*  
391 *Care* 2012 Jul;38(3):175-8. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/jfprhc-2011-100166>.
- 392 29. Saav I, Stephansson O, Gemzell-Danielsson K. Early versus delayed insertion of intrauterine  
393 contraception after medical abortion - a randomized controlled trial. *PLoS ONE*  
394 2012;7(11):e48948. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0048948>.
- 395 30. Korjamo R, Mentula M, Heikinheimo O. Fast-track vs. delayed insertion of the  
396 levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system after early medical abortion - a randomized  
397 trial. *Contraception* 2017 Aug 05. doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2017.07.008.
- 398 31. Korjamo R, Mentula M, Heikinheimo O. Expulsions and adverse events following  
399 immediate and later insertion of a levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system after medical  
400 termination of late first and second trimester pregnancy: A randomised controlled trial. *Bjog*  
401 2017 Jul 10. doi: 10.1111/1471-0528.14813.
- 402 32. Working group set up by the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim and the Finnish Society of  
403 Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Induced abortion (online). Current Care Guidelines. The

- 404 Finnish Medical Society Duodecim. 2013. [cited 2017 Oct 26]. Available from:  
405 <http://kaypahoito.fi/web/english/guidelineabstracts/guideline?id=ccs00034>
- 406 33. Heino A, Niinimäki M, Mentula M, et al. How reliable are health registers? Registration of  
407 induced abortions and sterilizations in Finland. *Informatics for health & social care* 2017  
408 Apr 07:1-10. doi: 10.1080/17538157.2017.1297306.
- 409 34. Gissler M, Ulander VM, Hemminki E, et al. Declining induced abortion rate in Finland: data  
410 quality of the Finnish abortion register. *International journal of epidemiology* 1996  
411 Apr;25(2):376-80.
- 412 35. Mentula MJ, Niinimäki M, Suhonen S, et al. Young age and termination of pregnancy  
413 during the second trimester are risk factors for repeat second-trimester abortion. *Am J Obstet*  
414 *Gynecol* 2010 Aug;203(2):107.e1-7. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2010.03.004>.
- 415 36. Cameron ST, Riddell J, Brown A, et al. Characteristics of women who present for abortion  
416 towards the end of the mid-trimester in Scotland: national audit 2013-2014. *Eur J Contracept*  
417 *Reprod Health Care* 2015 Nov 15:1-6. doi: 10.3109/13625187.2015.1111326.
- 418 37. St John H, Critchley H, Glasier A. Can we identify women at risk of more than one  
419 termination of pregnancy? *Contraception* 2005 Jan;71(1):31-4. doi:  
420 [10.1016/j.contraception.2004.07.003](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2004.07.003).
- 421 38. Birgisson NE, Zhao Q, Secura GM, et al. Preventing Unintended Pregnancy: The  
422 Contraceptive CHOICE Project in Review. *Journal of women's health (2002)*. 2015  
423 May;24(5):349-53. doi: 10.1089/jwh.2015.5191.
- 424 39. Suggestion to Helsinki community to offer free-of-cost contraception to women under 25  
425 years. [cited 2017 Oct 4]. Available from: <https://www.kuntalaisaloite.fi/fi/aloite/2161>
- 426 40. National Institute for Health and Welfare. Official Statistics of Finland. Induced Abortions  
427 2013. Published Oct 2014. [cited 2017 Oct 26]. Available from [http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-](http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2014101645230)  
428 [fe2014101645230](http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2014101645230)

- 429 41. Anna Heino, National Institute for Health and Welfare, personal communication (March 26,  
430 2016).
- 431 42. Pohjoranta E, Suhonen S, Heikinheimo O. Attendance at post-abortal follow-up visits is low  
432 - can the risks of non-attendance be identified? *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand* 2011  
433 May;90(5):543-6. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1600-0412.2011.01099.x>.
- 434 43. Madden T, Westhoff C. Rates of follow-up and repeat pregnancy in the 12 months after first-  
435 trimester induced abortion. *Obstet Gynecol* 2009 Mar;113(3):663-8. doi:  
436 10.1097/AOG.0b013e318195dd1e.

437

438



439

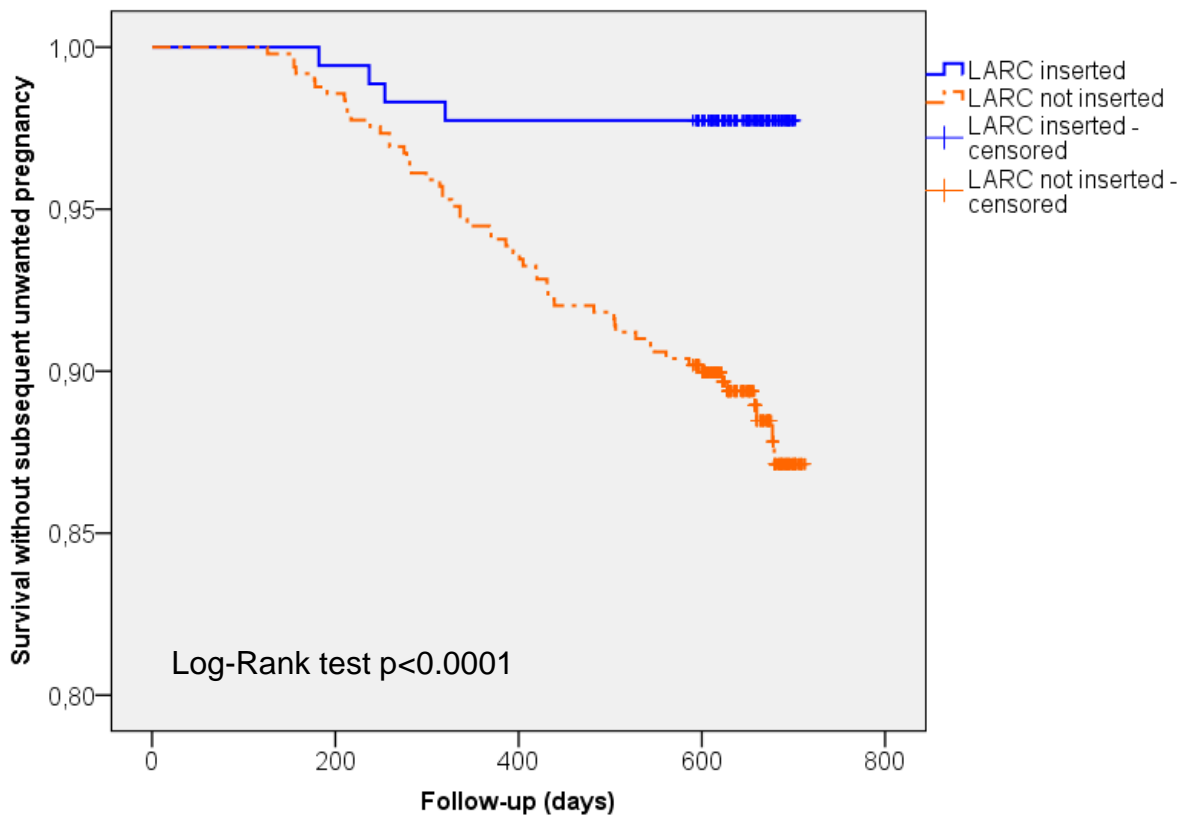
440

441 **Figure 1.** The formation of the study group of 666 women undergoing medically induced abortion

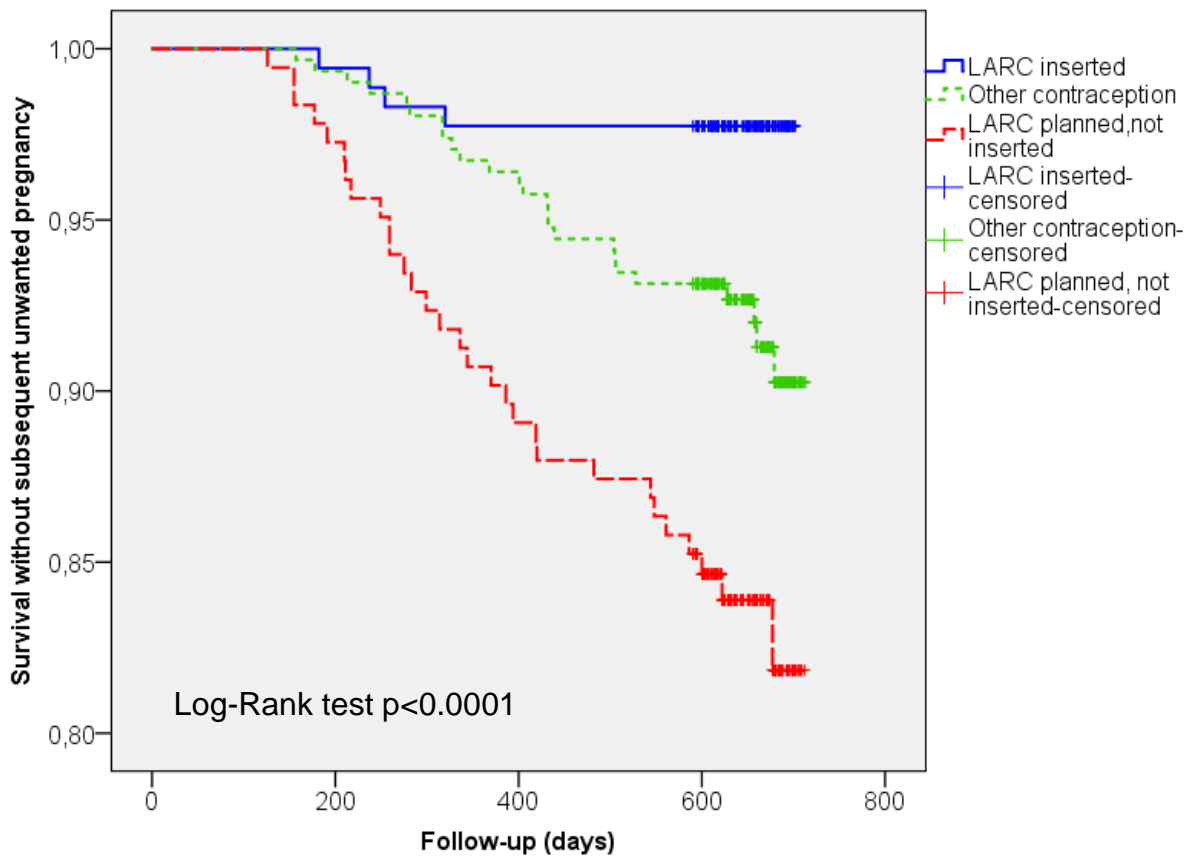
442 and their planned contraception during January 17<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.

443

444 a)



445  
446 b)



447  
448

449 **Figure 2.** Kaplan-Meier survival without subsequent unwanted pregnancy among 666 women  
450 requesting medical abortion during January 17<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.

451 a) According to initiation status of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC).

452 b) According to verified LARC insertion, planning but not necessarily starting LARC, or other  
453 contraceptive plans at the time of index abortion.

454 Median follow-up time was 649 days (interquartile range 614–679, i.e. 21 months [20–22]).

455

456

457 **Table 1.** Demographics of the 666 women undergoing medical induced abortion during January  
 458 17<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013. Data are presented as n (%) unless stated other vice.

Age (years) (median [IQR])	26.0 (22.0–32.0)
Age groups	
≤ 20 years	118 (17.7%)
21 to 24 years	165 (24.8%)
25 to 29 years	141 (21.2%)
30 to 34 years	124 (18.6%)
35 to 39 years	84 (12.6%)
≥ 40 years	34 (5.1%)
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) (missing n=90 [13.5%]) (median [IQR])	22.7 (20.7–25.6)
Normal weight (body mass index <25 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	413 (62.0%)
Regular smoking (missing n=17 [2.6%])	308 (46.2%)
Regular use of alcohol (missing n=59 [8.9%])	407 (61.1%)
Socioeconomic status	
White collar workers	130 (19.5%)
Blue collar workers	235 (35.3%)
Students	163 (24.5%)
Others or not known	138 (20.7%)
Marital status (missing n=14 [2.1%])	
Married or cohabiting	272 (40.8%)
Single	380 (57.1%)
Ethnicity native Finnish	513 (77.0%)
Residence Helsinki or Vantaa*	517 (77.6%)
Previous pregnancy	395 (59.3%)
Previous delivery	296 (44.4%)
Previous vaginal delivery	272 (40.8%)
Previous cesarean section	45 (6.8%)
Previous induced abortion	229 (34.4%)
Previous miscarriage	97 (14.6%)
Gestational age (median [IQR])	54 (47–63)
≤63 days	507 (76.1%)
64–84 days	136 (20.4%)
≥85 days	23 (3.5%)
Abortion partially at home among gestational age of ≤63 days	437 (86.2%)

459

460 \* Cities offering a first intrauterine device or system or implant free of costs

461



462 Table 2. LARC presented, planned, and inserted according to selected demographic factors among  
 463 666 women undergoing medical abortion during January 17<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.

	n	LARC presented <sup>^</sup>	p-value	LARC planned <sup>^</sup>	p-value	LARC inserted <sup>^</sup>	p-value
Age							
<25 years	283	158 (55.8%)	<0.001	135 (47.7%)	0.005	66 (23.3%)	0.10
≥25 years	383	271 (70.8%)		225 (58.7%)		111 (29.0%)	
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )							
<25	413	273 (66.1%)	<0.001	228 (55.2%)	<0.001	112 (27.1%)	0.006
25-30	108	65 (60.2%)		53 (49.1%)		32 (29.6%)	
≥30	55	46 (83.6%)		42 (76.4%)		21 (38.2%)	
Not known	90	45 (50.0%)		37 (41.1%)		12 (13.3%)	
Socioeconomic status							
White collar workers	130	83 (63.8%)	0.08	67 (51.5%)	0.15	34 (26.2%)	0.08
Blue collar workers	235	164 (69.8%)		141 (60.0%)		73 (31.1%)	
Students	163	93 (57.1%)		84 (51.5%)		44 (27.0%)	
Others or not known	138	89 (64.5%)		68 (49.3%)		26 (18.8%)	
Marital status							
Married or cohabiting	272	193 (71.0%)	0.002	159 (58.5%)	0.049	72 (26.5%)	0.38
Single	380	224 (58.9%)		191 (50.3%)		99 (26.1%)	
Not known	14	12 (85.7%)		10 (71.4%)		6 (42.9%)	
Ethnicity							
Native Finnish	513	327 (63.7%)	0.51	273 (53.2%)	0.43	147 (28.7%)	0.026
Other	153	102 (66.7%)		87 (56.9%)		30 (19.6%)	
Residence							
Helsinki or Vantaa*	517	336 (65.0%)	0.56	281 (54.4%)	0.77	137 (26.5%)	0.93
Other	149	93 (62.4%)		79 (53.0%)		40 (26.8%)	
Previous pregnancy							
Yes	395	305 (77.2%)	<0.001	256 (64.8%)	<0.001	131 (33.2%)	<0.001
No	271	124 (45.8%)		104 (38.4%)		46 (17.0%)	
Previous delivery							
Yes	296	236 (79.7%)	<0.001	202 (68.2%)	<0.001	98 (33.1%)	0.001
No	370	193 (52.2%)		158 (42.7%)		79 (21.4%)	
Previous induced abortion							
Yes	229	182 (79.5%)	<0.001	149 (65.1%)	<0.001	81 (35.4%)	<0.001
No	437	247 (56.5%)		211 (48.3%)		96 (22.0%)	
Gestational-age group							
≤63 days	507	318 (62.7%)	0.047	265 (52.3%)	0.040	114 (22.5%)	<0.001
64-84 days	136	91 (66.9%)		77 (56.6%)		48 (35.3%)	
≥85 days	23	20 (87.0%)		18 (78.3%)		15 (65.2%)	
Early medical abortion (≤63 days)							
Yes	507	318 (62.7%)	0.10	265(52.3%)	0.10	114 (22.5%)	<0.001
No	159	111 (69.8%)		95 (59.7%)		63 (39.6%)	
Abortion partially at home among gestation of ≤63 days							
Yes	437	272 (62.2%)	0.58	226 (51.7%)	0.53	89 (20.4%)	0.004
No	70	46 (65.7%)		39 (55.7%)		25 (35.7%)	
Participated in randomized trial							
Yes	159	159 (100.0%)	<0.001	159 (100.0%)	<0.001	141 (88.7%)	<0.001
No	507	270 (53.3%)		201 (39.6%)		36 (7.1%)	

464 <sup>^</sup> ‘LARC presented’ was defined as it was recommended or presented to the woman and mentioned  
 465 in the electronic patient file. ‘LARC planned’ means that woman was recruited to the randomized

466 study or LARC was planned otherwise to post abortion contraception. 'LARC initiated' means that  
467 initiation was verified as a part of the randomized study or insertion occurred in a hospital within  
468 one month following the abortion.

469 \* Cities offering the first long-acting reversible contraceptives free-of-cost to their citizens.

470

**Table 3:** Risk factors of subsequent abortion and unwanted pregnancy during the follow-up (median 21 months, interquartile range 20–22 months)

among 666 women undergoing medical induced abortion during January 17<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> 2013. Cox regression model.

	Subsequent abortion					Subsequent abortion or unwanted pregnancy				
	n (%)	Unadjusted HR (95%CI)	p-value	Adjusted HR (95%CI)	p-value	n (%)	Unadjusted HR (95%CI)	p-value	Adjusted HR (95%CI)	p-value
Planned other contraception (n=306)	21 (6.9%)	Reference		Reference*		25 (8.2%)	Reference		Reference*	
Planned LARC <sup>a</sup> (n=360)	33 (9.2%)	1.37 (0.79–2.37)	0.26	1.22 (0.68–2.17)	0.51	34 (9.4%)	1.19 (0.71–2.00)	0.51	1.02 (0.59–1.76)	0.95
Planned other contraception (n=306)	21 (6.9%)	Reference		Reference*		25 (8.2%)	Reference		Reference*	
LARC planned, not inserted (n=183)	29 (15.8%)	2.47 (1.41–4.33)	0.002	2.22 (1.23–3.98)	0.008	30 (16.4%)	2.15 (1.27–3.66)	0.005	1.86 (1.07–3.24)	0.028
LARC inserted (n=177)	4 (2.3%)	0.33 (0.11–0.95)	0.04	0.26 (0.08–0.77)	0.015	4 (2.3%)	0.27 (0.10–0.79)	0.016	0.21 (0.07–0.62)	0.005
LARC not inserted (n=489)	50 (10.2%)	Reference		Reference*		55 (11.2%)	Reference		Reference*	
LARC inserted (n=177)	4 (2.3%)	0.21 (0.08–0.59)	0.003	0.17 (0.06–0.48)	<0.001	4 (2.3%)	0.19 (0.07–0.54)	0.002	0.15 (0.05–0.43)	<0.001
Age ≥25 (n=383)	27 (7.0%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>		31 (8.1%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>	
<25 (n=283)	27 (9.5%)	1.34 (0.79–2.29)	0.28	1.95 (1.04–3.67)	0.04	28 (9.9%)	1.22 (0.73–2.03)	0.45	1.84 (1.00–3.38)	0.049
No previous pregnancy (n=271)	18 (6.6%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>		19 (7.0%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>	
Has previous pregnancy (n=395)	36 (9.1%)	1.38 (0.78–2.43)	0.26	1.81 (0.63–5.19)	0.27	40 (10.1%)	1.45 (0.84–2.51)	0.18	1.49 (0.53–4.21)	0.45
No previous delivery (n=370)	25 (6.8%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>		26 (7.0%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>	
Has previous delivery (n=296)	29 (9.8%)	1.48 (0.86–2.52)	0.15	1.63 (0.65–4.10)	0.30	33 (11.1%)	1.62 (0.97–2.70)	0.07	1.95 (0.80–4.80)	0.14
No previous induced abortion (n=437)	37 (8.5%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>		39 (8.9%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>	
Has previous induced abortion (n=229)	17 (7.4%)	0.86 (0.48–1.53)	0.61	0.75 (0.37–1.53)	0.43	20 (8.7%)	0.96 (0.56–1.64)	0.88	0.88 (0.46–1.72)	0.72
Gestational age ≤63 days (n=507)	39 (7.7%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>		43 (8.5%)	Reference		Reference <sup>^</sup>	
64-84 days (n=136)	12 (8.8%)	1.09 (0.57–2.08)	0.79	1.15 (0.59–2.21)	0.68	13 (9.6%)	1.06 (0.57–1.98)	0.85	1.12 (0.60–2.10)	0.72
≥85 days (n=23)	3 (13.0%)	1.65 (0.51–5.34)	0.40	2.73 (0.82–9.09)	0.10	3 (13.0%)	1.49 (0.46–4.81)	0.50	2.60 (0.78–8.62)	0.12

<sup>a</sup> Long-acting reversible contraception (copper-containing intrauterine device, levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system and implant)

\* Adjusted by age (<25 years vs. ≥25 years), previous pregnancy (yes vs. no), previous delivery (yes vs. no), previous induced abortion (yes vs. no) and gestational-age groups (≤63 days vs. 64-84 days vs. ≥85 days).

<sup>^</sup> Adjusted by factors mentioned above and LARC insertion status (inserted vs. not inserted).