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Original Research Article

Evaluation of postpartum intrauterine contraceptive devices (IUCD) insertion: 5 years study

Ramalingappa C. Antaratani, Vinay Raju D., Sanjana K.*

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli, Karnataka, India

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***Correspondence:**

Dr. Sanjana K.,

E-mail: sanjanak60.sk@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Background: The intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD) primarily in the form of copper T is used by more than 150 million women around the world making it the most widely used reversible method of contraception with a remarkably low failure rate of less than 1 per 100 women in the first year of use for cu T 380 A. It is more suitable for a country like India which is in urgent need of population control methods.

Methods: A Prospective observational study was under taken where in a series of women who delivered either vaginally or through caesarean section during the period of November 2013 to October 2017 in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli counseled for PPIUCD insertion were included in the study. Mothers who were suffered from Chorioamnionitis, Puerperal sepsis, Postpartum haemorrhage, PROM more than 18 hours, extensive genital trauma, uterine abnormalities, Multiple sexual partners and obstructed labour were excluded from the study. Since it was a time bound study, a total of 16009 cases were enrolled in the study after counseling them.

Results: A total of 16009 women were counseled to undergo PPIUCD, out which 5144 women accepted for PPIUCD amounting to a total acceptance rate of 32.1%. Out of the 10865 women who did not accept device, the reason for non-acceptance preference another contraception 60%, family opposition was reason in 21% of women, while 08% of women had side effects from their previous use. 11% of women said that they were not desire to use contraception.

Conclusions: Family planning and mother and child health services are supplied to the people free of cost in India. Use of an intrauterine device is simpler, less expensive, and immediately reversible.

Keywords: Less expensive, PPIUCD, Reversible contraceptive

INTRODUCTION

India is the second most populated country in the world after china with more than a billion people and having a maternal mortality rate of 254/100,000 live birth. India has one of the highest numbers of maternal death in the world. Indian women have more children than desired and often too closely together due to limited choice of quality, family planning services and the urgent need of family planning. Short intervals between births are linked to higher maternal and child mortality and morbidity.¹

Insertion of Intra Uterine Contraceptive Devices (IUCDs) early in the postpartum period represents a convenient opportunity for the administration of a safe, highly effective, long acting, cost effective reversible and easy to insert contraceptive method. Insertion of an intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD) immediately after delivery has been recommended by World Health Organization (WHO), as one of the safe and effective methods of the temporary contraception.² Postpartum family planning (PPFP) is the prevention of unintended and closely spaced pregnancies through the first twelve

months following childbirth.³ There are many options available for postpartum contraception viz. lactational amenorrhea (LAM method), Pills, IUCD, Condom, sterilization but the women in the postpartum period wants an efficacious, reliable, safe, easy to use and a reversible contraceptive method which provide long term protection. All these criteria's are fulfilled by PPIUCD.

In the immediate post delivery period, the women are highly motivated and need an effective method of contraception so that the child can be brought up with a relaxed mind without the worry of unintended pregnancy. On the other hand, if they are made to wait for 6 weeks for initiating an effective contraception, they may conceive accidentally or may not come for contraception. This approach is more applicable to our country where delivery may be the only time when a healthy woman comes in contact with health care personnel. Compared with sterilization, however, use of an IUCD is simpler, less expensive and immediately reversible. With this background authors have under taken the present study to assess the acceptance and complications of usage of postpartum IUCDs.

METHODS

A Prospective observational study was under taken where in a series of women who delivered either vaginally or through caesarean section during the period of November 2013 to October 2017 in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli counseled for PPIUCD insertion were included in the study.

Exclusion criteria

- Mothers who were suffered from Chorioamnionitis, Puerperal sepsis, Postpartum haemorrhage, PROM more than 18 hours, extensive genital trauma, uterine abnormalities, Multiple sexual partners and obstructed labour were excluded from the study.

Since it was a time bound study, a total of 16009 cases were enrolled in the study after counselling them.

Steps involved

- After counseling and after taking due consent of the women for insertion, PPIUCD (Cu T 380 A) was inserted during postpartum period either during post placental or immediate postpartum period within 48 hours after delivery or during caesarean depending upon the consent and mode of delivery of the women.
- The women was then explained regarding potential adverse effects, care and further follow up visits and is then discharged.
- The women was called after 6 weeks for first follow up.

- During follow up period, patient was first asked about any complaints she was having about CuT. And if yes, then symptomatic treatment was given.
- Then CuT thread was examined by per speculum examination.
- If CuT thread was not found, then the position of CuT is confirmed by ultrasonographic examination.
- If CuT was situ, then patient was counseled about the position and safety of the CuT.
- Then again, the patient was called after 3 months for follow up and the same methodology followed.
- All the above events and the respective findings were recorded.

Statistical analysis

All the collected data variables was entered into an excel sheet and after appropriate data filtration, the data sheet was transferred to and analyzed using SPSS software version 22.

Appropriate descriptive statistics were used to describe the data and appropriate tests of significance were applied to find out the associations between the variables.

RESULTS

Maximum study subjects were in the age group 18-25yrs (66%). A large proportion of them were hindus (87.5%). About half of the study subjects were home makers. 46.2% of them were illiterates and 34.2% had done their primary schooling (Table 1).

Table 1: Socio-demographic profile of the study subjects.

Variable		Frequency	%
Age group	18-25 years	10565	66.0
	26-30 years	4610	28.8
	31-35 years	800	5.0
	> 36 years	34	0.2
		16009	100.0
Religion	Hindus	14023	87.5
	Muslims	1600	10.1
	Christians	386	2.4
		16009	100.0
Occupation	Housewife	8357	52.2
	Unskilled labour	5330	33.3
	Skilled labour	1616	10.1
	Self employed	706	4.4
		16009	100.0
Education	Illiterate	7396	46.2
	Primary schooling	5475	34.2
	High schooling	1633	10.2
	PUC	1152	7.2
	Degree	353	2.2
	16009	100.0	

Nearly half of the study subjects were primigravidae (48.6%) and 43.4% were multigravidae with 1 child these being the target population for spacing methods like cu T insertion (Table 2).

Table 2: Obstetric profile of the study subjects.

Obstetric profile	Frequency	%
Primigravida	7780	48.6
Multigravida with 1 child	6948	43.4
Multigravida with 2 or more child	1281	8.0
Total	16009	100.0

A total of 16009 women were counselled to undergo PPIUCD, out which 5144 women accepted for PPIUCD amounting to a total acceptance rate of 32.1%.

The acceptance rate was more in the young age groups 18-25 years (33.8%) and 26-30 years (30.1%) when compared to elder age groups 31-35 years (22.5%) and more than 35 years (16.7%).

The acceptance of PPICUD was high among Christian Women (35%) compared to Hindu women (33.2%) and Muslim women (22.1%).

Table 3: Socio-demographic profile versus acceptance rate among the study subjects.

Variable		Total no. of patients (N)	No. of patients accepted (N)	Percentage
Age Group	18-25 years	10566	3571	33.8
	26-30 years	4610	1387	30.1
	31-5 years	800	180	22.5
	> 36 years	33	6	16.7
		16009	5144	32.1
Religion	Hindus	14023	4655	33.2
	Muslims	1615	357	22.1
	Christians	371	132	35.0
		16009	5144	32.1
Occupation	House wife	8356	2599	31.1
	Unskilled labour	5331	1695	31.8
	Skilled labour	1600	580	36.3
	Self employed	722	270	37.3
		16009	5144	32.1
Education	Illiterate	7396	2263	30.6
	Primary schooling	5475	1692	30.9
	High schooling	1632	612	37.5
	PUC	1153	443	38.4
	Degree	353	134	37.9
	16009	5144	32.1	

The acceptance rate was more among self-employed (38%) and skilled labour women (36.3%) compared other women with other occupations. Educated women had higher acceptance rate school 37.5%, PUC 38.4%, Degree 39.7%) compared to women who were illiterate and with primary Schooling (30.6% and 30.9% respectively) (Table 3). The acceptance rate of PPIUCD was high among multigravida women with one child (38.7%) when compared to multigravida with 2 or more children (30.9%). The acceptance rate was less among primigravida women (26.5%) (Table 4).

The acceptance rate was more among women who were counseled during the early labour (36.9%) when compared to women who were counseled during antepartum (29%) and postpartum period (26.6%) (Table 5)

Table 4: Obstetric profile versus acceptance rate among the study subjects.

Obstetric profile	Total no of patients (N)	No. of patients accepted (n)	%
In primigravida	7780	2062	26.5
In multigravida with 1 child	6932	2682	38.7
In multigravida with 2 or more child	1297	400	30.9
Total	16009	5144	32.1

Out of the 10865 women who did not accept device, the reason for non-acceptance preference another contraception 60%, family opposition was reason in 21% of women, while 08% of women had side effects from

their previous use. 11% of women said that they were not desired to use contraception (Table 6).

Table 5: Period of counselling versus acceptance rate among the study subjects.

Period of counselling	Total no. of patients (N)	No. of patients accepted (n)	%
Antepartum	6627	1921	29.0
Early labour	7060	2605	36.9
Postpartum	2322	618	26.6
Total	16009	5144	32.1

Table 6: Reasons for not accepting PPIUCD.

Reason	No. of patients	%
Preference for another contraceptive	6519	60
Family opposition	2281	21
Side effects from previous use	870	08
No contraception	1195	11
Total	10865	100.0

Among the other method of family planning that as chosen by the women who did not accept the PPIUCD, 29.4% choose to continue with lactational amenorrhea. 32.00% started using barrier contraceptives, 27.5% went with hormonal contraceptives and 11.1% women choose permanent sterilization. Some said will come back after some time for sterilization (Table 7).

Table 7: Preferred method of contraception among subjects who did not accept PPIUCD.

Preferred method	No. of patients	%
Lactational amenorrhoea	2843	29.4
Permanent sterilization	1074	11.1
Barrier contraception	3094	32.0
Hormonal contraceptives	2659	27.5
Total	9670	100.0

Out of 5144 inserted PPIUCD devices 27% of them were inserted in Post placental period, 20% in immediate postpartum period, while 53% of them were inserted during delivery by caesarean section (Table 8).

Table 8: Time of placement of PPIUCD among the accepted patients.

Type of PPIUCD	No. of patients	%
Post placental	1389	27
Immediate postpartum	1029	20
Intracaesarean	2726	53
Total	5144	100

Out of 5144 women who had accepted PPIUCD, at the end of 6 weeks of follow up, the predominant complaints were abdominal pain (25%), heavy vaginal bleeding

(15%), thread coming out (8%) followed by spontaneous expulsion (5.1%) and missing thread (1.4%) (Table 9).

Table 9: Predominant complaints after 6 weeks and 3 months of placement of PPIUCD among the accepted patients.

Complaints at 6 weeks	After 6 weeks N (%)	After 3 months N (%)
No complaints	2057 (40)	4012 (77.7)
Abdominal pain	1286 (25.0)	771(15.1)
Heavy bleeding	771 (15)	180 (3.59)
Thread coming out	411(8)	51(1.0)
Expulsion	258 (5.1)	308 (6.0)
Missing Thread	72 (1.4)	10 (0.2)
Lost to follow up	617 (12.0)	1568(30.5)
Perforation	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Pregnancy with copper in situ	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

At the end of 3 months of follow up, the predominant complaints were abdominal pain (15.1%) heavy vaginal bleeding (3.59%), spontaneous expulsion (6%) followed by thread coming out (1%) and missing thread (0.2%)

At the end of 6 weeks 617 (12%) of the women were lost to follow up and 1568 (30.5%) of them were lost to follow up after 3 months.

There were total of 592 (11.5%) spontaneous expulsions, 258 (5.1%) of them were early expulsions (within 6 weeks) while 308 (6.0%) was delayed expulsion that took place between 6 weeks to 3 months. And at the end of 1 years 26(0.5%) were expulsed (Table 10).

Table 10: Expulsion rate among the total PPIUD accepted subjects (N=5144).

Follow up Interval	No. of Patients	%
At 6 weeks	258	5.1
At 3 months	308	6.0
At 1 years	26	0.5
Total	592	11.5

Table 11: Causes for removal of PPIUCD among the total accepted subjects (N=5144).

Causes of removal	No. of patients	%
Abdominal plain	1157	22.5
Heavy bleeding	150	2.95
Missing thread	82	1.6
For tubectomy	360	7.0
Family opposition	257	5.0
Pregnancy	0	0.0
Total	2006	38.99

At total of 2006 (38.99%) PPIUCDs had to be removed because 1157(22.5%) of them had unrelieved abdominal

pain, 150(2.95%) had uncontrolled heavy vaginal bleeding, while in 82 (1.6%) patients it was removed because thread was missing followed by patient request. 360 (7.0%) got removed and underwent tubectomy (Table 11).

DISCUSSION

For sexually active fertile woman who do not use contraception, pregnancy rates approach 90 percent at one year. In the immediate post delivery period, the women are highly under the risk of accidental pregnancy and in this time period they are highly motivated and need an effective method for contraception. As per Indian scenario many women at this period may not yet be ready for a terminal method of permanent contraception such as tubal ligation, and they usually are looking for method of contraception which is temporary and reversible. A total of 16009 women were counseled to undergo PPIUD, out of which 5144 women accepted for PPIUD amounting to a total acceptance rate of 32.1%. ,which is almost similar % to the study conducted by Mohammed SA et al.⁴

In 1967. the data collected by Population Council, New York, from multiple hospitals in different countries regarding various methods that were used for postpartum family planning. Among the 101,725 women who accepted the method of post-partum family planning, 51% women choose intrauterine device as their postpartum contraceptive method.⁵ In the present study the major reasons for non-acceptance of CU-T are preference to another contraceptive and family opposition, similar result was found in study conducted by Sharma Megha et al, family opposition remains second most common cause whereas side effects of CU-T from previous use becomes the first major reason.⁶

According to the study conducted in India to explore the reasons for non-acceptance of PPIUCD, the most common reasons are nonawareness of contraceptive methods, misbelieves about copper-t, male child preference.⁷ The acceptance rate was more in the young age groups 18-25 years (33.8%) and 26-30 years (30.1%) in present study, and according to study conducted by Kafiye Eroglua et al, the maximum number of patients i.e. 38% are in 20-24 years age group and 26% in 25-29 years age group.⁸

In the present study the acceptance rate of PPIUCD was high among multigravida women with one child (38.7%) when compared to multigravida with 2 or more children (30.9%). The acceptance rate was less among primigravida women (26.5%), in contrary to the result found in the study conducted by Kafiye Eroglua et al, where 44 % of the patients are primipara, 36% of patients having two living children, and 19% patients having 3 or more living children.⁸ In the present study at the end of 6 weeks of follow up, the predominant complaints were abdominal pain (25%), heavy vaginal bleeding (15%),

thread coming out (8%) followed by spontaneous expulsion (5.1%) and missing thread (1.4%)

At the end of 3 months of follow up, the predominant complaints were abdominal pain (15.1%) heavy vaginal bleeding (3.59%), spontaneous expulsion (6%) followed by thread coming out (1%) and missing thread (0.2%). At the end of 6 weeks 617 (12%) of the women were lost to follow up and 1568 (30.5%) of them were lost to follow up after 3 months. Compared to the study conducted by Chi Cheng I et al only 4% of patients lost to follow up within 6 weeks was quite higher in present study.⁹

In the present study there were total of 592 (11.5%) spontaneous expulsions, 258 (5.1%) of them were early expulsions (within 6 weeks) while 308 (6.0%) was delayed expulsion that took place between 6 weeks to 3 months. And at the end of 1 years 26 (0.5%) were expulsed, which was similar to the study coated by Celen S et al, the 1-year cumulative expulsion rates with Cu-T device was 12.3%, which may be regarded as a standard expulsion rate for immediate post placental insertion of similar model of IUDs.¹⁰ In present study a total of 2006 (38.99%) PPIUCDs had to be removed because 1157 (22.5%) of them had unrelieved abdominal pain, 150 (2.95%) had uncontrolled heavy vaginal bleeding, while in 82 (1.6%) patients it was removed because thread was missing followed by patient request. 360 (7.0%) got removed and underwent tubectomy, the results are in contrary to the study conducted by O'Hanley K et al, where the removal rate for the reason of heavy vaginal bleeding i.e. 23.6% became the important cause.¹¹

CONCLUSION

Family planning and mother and child health services are supplied to the people free of cost in India. So as far as the birth control measures are concerned, a 'cafeteria approach' of all types of methods are offered for user to choose. IUDs are widely acceptable reversible method of contraception for spacing of births. In the immediate post delivery period, the women are highly motivated and need an effective method for contraception so that the child can be brought up without the worry of unintended pregnancy. Use of an intrauterine device is simpler, less expensive, and immediately reversible.

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