Couples Perception toward Utilization of Barrier Contraceptive Methods

Thesis

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Master's Degree in Maternity & Gynecological Nursing

By

Nagia Shawky Abd El-Samie Ebid

B.Sc. Nursing
Clinical instructor in Maternity & Gynecological Nursing
Faculty of Nursing-Ain Shams University

Faculty of Nursing
Ain Shams University
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Supervised By

Prof Dr. Nadia Mohamed Fahmy

Professor of Maternity & Gynecological Nursing Faculty of Nursing-Ain Shams University

Assist. Prof. Dr: Nevin Samir Metwaly

Assistant Professor of Maternity & Gynecological
Nursing
Faculty of Nursing-Ain Shams University

Dr. Amal Talaat El-Sharkawy

Lecturer of Maternity & Gynecological Nursing Faculty of Nursing- Ain Shams University

Faculty of Nursing
Ain Shams University
2016



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List of Abbreviations

ASHA	American Sexual Health
CDC	Center of Disease Control
ECP	Emergency contraception pills
IUD	Intrauterine Device
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STD	Sexual Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infections
WHO	world Health Organization

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Abstract

Barrier methods are used as contraceptive methods and the only one recommended for prevention of sexual transmitted diseases. A descriptive study design was followed aiming to assess couples' perception toward utilization of barrier contraceptive methods. The study was conducted in two setting (Faculty of Nursing and Technical Nursing Institute of Ain Shams University) 102 couples were included in the study through using a purposive sample technique. Two **tools** of data collection was used named self-administrated questionnaire sheet and assessment sheet for couple's attitude (Likert attitude scale). The main results of the study illustrated that increasing wives knowledge regarding barrier methods compared with their husbands. In contrast husband's utilization was higher than wives but with statistically significant incorrect way so there was difference observed between knowledge and utilization. Regarding their attitude the wives had positive attitude while husbands had uncertain attitude. The current study **concluded that** despite couples know about barrier methods and had uncertain, positive attitude, utilization was low and improper. Based on this finding, the researchers recommended; conduction of awareness brochure for couples about barrier methods and its importance at family planning clinics.

Key word: couples perception, utilization, barrier method

Introduction

Family planning is defined as a program that allows individuals and couples to determine the number of children to have, when to have them, and at what intervals. This is achieved through the voluntary use of various devices, sexual practices, chemicals, drugs, or surgical procedures that interfere with the normal process of ovulation, fertilization, and implantation (*Medical Dictionary*, 2014).

The prevention of unwanted pregnancy is an integral part of modern medical practice and major public health interest. Each year, 80 million women worldwide have unintended pregnancies. So methods for controlling fertility are necessary and desired. Traditionally, the practice of family planning centred on the prevention of unwanted conception. In recent years, shifting in sexual behaviour, infection risks elimination to include complete women's reproductive health (*Glasier*, 2011).

Barrier contraceptive methods are another type of contraceptive method used for preventing pregnancy and certain sexually transmitted infections through using a device or preparation that prevents live sperm from reaching the ovum.

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The success of such methods depends on the quality of the barriers, the motivation and willingness of the couple to use the method. These methods are used with male and female, for males the condom is the only method, while the female condom, diaphragm and cervical cap are used with females. In addition to Spermicides are a chemical barriers which can also be used on their own or often used in conjunction with barrier methods (*Peipert*, 2014).

Perception refers to The process by which people translate sensory impressions into unified view of the world around them though necessarily incomplete and unverified (or unreliable) information, it is equated with reality for most practical purposes and guides human behaviour in general (*Medical Dictionary*, 2014).

Family planning programmers have always been focused on the female counterpart, this has led to the perception that family planning is largely a woman's business while the man having a negligible role. Men play a powerful role in reproductive decisions. Their actions can have unhealthy and even dangerous results. So that the decision should be shared between them to avoid the problems resulting from it (*John*, 2013).

Providing high quality care of family planning services the nurse must be knowledgeable, skilled and competent to be capable for providing planned, organized and effective care for couples for preventing complications of unintended pregnancy and increase awareness about using appropriate methods according to their preferences correctly (*Billings and Mack*, 2012).

Justification of the study:

In Egypt, According to center of disease control (CDC) 2014, STIs are estimated 4,281,604 case. Although from increasing this percent annually Demographic health survey (DHS) indicates that 1% used only barrier methods (condom 0.5%, digharm 0.5%) (*DHS*, 2014). In contrast, in 2007 results of study on the knowledge, attitude of condom use revealed that condoms was considered effective method of contraception and prevention of STIs by 60%, and is used by 23% for contraception (*Kabbash*, 2007).