

## ABSTRACT

### HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION – USERS' KNOWLEDGE

**Student:** Kříklánová, J.

**Tutor:** Marešová, H.

**Department of Social and Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové,  
Charles University, Czech Republic**

**Introduction:** Hormonal contraception is a broadly used and very reliable birth control method. Nonetheless, it is not entirely risk-free. This thesis deals with the awareness of those risks in women who are currently using hormonal contraception or have ever used it before.

**Aim of the thesis:** The main aim was to determine the extent of the users' awareness of hormonal contraception and its risks, undesirable side effects and contraindications, as well as their source of information. Furthermore, the awareness of the environmental impact, the reasons for using hormonal contraception and user satisfaction were examined.

**Methodology:** The research was carried out by means of online questionnaires, which were spread among current or former users of hormonal contraception regardless of age, educational background or place of residence. 148 completed questionnaires were gathered and the data which were obtained were statistically evaluated.

**Results:** It was discovered that women feel informed (25 %) or rather informed (44,6 %) more often than uninformed; the most frequent source of information is patient information leaflet (65,5 %) followed by physician – gynaecologist (40,5 %) and a lot of women also seek information themselves (38,5 %). 88,5 % of respondents said they were aware of some risks or undesirable side effects; most of them also named particular examples. An affirmative answer to the question about awareness of contraindications was given by 67,6 % of women, who were also able to give examples. Possible environmental impact is realized by 65,5 % and rather realized by 12,5 % of respondents. The reasons for choosing this contraception method are

mostly the comfort of use, reliability and positive side effects. Women are mainly satisfied (36,5 %) or rather satisfied (41,2 %) with the use in general.

**Conclusion:** Based on the survey results expressed as a percentage, the awareness might seem to be very good; however, the open-ended questions have shown that it is considerably limited. It emerged that women not always know of the most serious risks and contraindications; on the contrary, they attribute unproven side effects to hormonal contraception. Given the small extent of this thesis and imperfections in methodology, the results are rather illustrative.