

Abstract

Attitudes towards treatment and knowledge of hormonal contraceptive users

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Introduction: Hormonal contraception (HC) is popular and a reliable birth control method. Its use is although associated with some risks and many myths or misconceptions.

Objective: The aim of this thesis was to determine the attitudes towards treatment and awareness of HC risks of its users in regard to various types and application forms in specific region by means of anonymous questionnaire.

Methods: The research was carried out as a prospective questionnaire survey. Anonymous questionnaires consisted of 35 questions divided into 6 sections to obtain sociodemographic data, information concerning HC users and their form of HC, information about the extent of knowledge concerning gynaecological examination, HC risks and HC misconception awareness. One part of questionnaire was focused on smoking while using HC. Questionnaires were distributed among women older than 15 years of age who attended a small private pharmacy in the centre of Prague with prescriptions to get their HC. The respondents filled in the written questionnaire by themselves. The survey lasted from October 2016 to January 2017 and out of 80 addressed women totally 51 questionnaires (63.8%) were gathered. Collected data were then evaluated by descriptive statistics.

Results: The mean age of respondents was 28 ± 8.2 years while more than 50% of women reached higher education and 80.0% of respondents were in stable sexual relationship. The most used type of HC was oral contraception (by 96.0% of women) and the most frequent reason for commencement of HC use was birth control (76.5%). From adverse effects associated with their form of HC, respondents were mostly aware of weight gain (64.7%) and mood swings (54.9%). However, more than 25% of respondents did not know which medical conditions could be worsen by using HC. One quarter of respondents were also smokers but only 23.1% of them were afraid of thromboembolism while using HC. Knowledge of HC users was quite high (90.0%) when it came to the claim that HC provides protection against sexually transmitted diseases. More than half of respondents (54.0%) took mostly affirmative attitude for a claim that HC users are able to enjoy sexual relationship to the greater extent.

Conclusion: It was discovered that women's awareness is quite limited, especially when it comes to the most serious risks of HC. However, these outcomes cannot be generalized because of small number of respondents but they can serve as a background for further research needed for obtaining more accurate results in this topic.