REVIEW OF CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG WOMEN SEEKING FOR REPEAT TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY IN HONG KONG

H.W. Li, S.F. Wan, S.T. Lo, Y.S. Fan
Hong Kong

Termination of pregnancy (TOP) is one of the commonly performed gynaecological procedures. We carried out this retrospective review to study the contraceptive practice among women seeking for first-time versus repeat TOPs.
We analysed the data of 596 women attending the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong for TOP during January to March 2005. Among them, 340 (57.0%) of cases were seeking first-time TOP, 161 (27.0%) were undergoing second TOP, and 95 (15.9%) undergoing TOP for the third or more times. Overall, 43% of the cases under review were having repeat TOP.
Women seeking for repeat TOP were significantly older in age, lower in education level, higher in parity, and more being married (p<0.001). The majority (more than 60%) of repeat TOPs were due to financial reasons and completed family. Regarding contraceptive use, 4.4 to 12.6% of women were using reliable contraceptive methods (hormonal methods, IUCD or sterilisation) before the current pregnancy, with slightly but significantly higher percentage in the repeater groups (p=0.002). Post-operatively, a significant majority (over 60% of cases) chose to use reliable methods compared to pre-operative usage (p<0.001) in both the youth and adult subjects. There was no significant difference in the likelihood of post-operative method change among the non-repeater and repeater groups. Only about 2-6% of repeaters had used emergency contraception (EC) before the current pregnancy and there were no significant difference in EC usage between the groups.
In conclusion, our results suggest that repeat TOP is a more significant problem among those older married women with completed family. We saw a positive change towards choosing more reliable contraceptive methods after TOP, but this group of women probably need strengthened education and counselling to reinforce proper and sustained usage of the methods chosen. EC usage should also be better taught.