

Clinical Article

Use of intrauterine contraceptive device in adolescent women: Knowledge, attitudes and practice of clinicians in Nigeria

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Abstract

Background

The prevention of unwanted pregnancies among adolescents is an important global health challenge. This study sought to evaluate the knowledge, attitudes and practices of clinicians towards the use of intrauterine contraception device (IUDs) for contraception in adolescents and nulliparous women at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Nigeria.

Methods

Qualitative cross-sectional survey of nurses, house-officers, residents and consultants in the department of obstetrics and gynecology(OB/GYN) that practice in UCH. Clinicians who are not practicing in the field of OB/GYN in UCH were excluded from the study.

Results

All of the 78 physicians and 73 nurses practicing in the department of OB/GYN at the time of the survey were eligible to participate in the study. Of these, 48 physicians (62%) and 50 nurses (68%) filled out the survey. There was no significant difference in the knowledge scores between physicians and nurse: the average knowledge score was 4.13 and 3.72 out of a total of 5 for physicians and nurses respectively. Neither nurses nor physicians showed strong preference

towards the provision of IUDs to sexually active adolescent and nulliparous women.

Conclusion

This study highlights the importance of increasing awareness amongst clinicians about the benefits and safety of IUD in sexually active adolescents and nulliparous women in an effort to reduce the rate of unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

Key words: intrauterine contraception device, contraception, adolescents, physicians, nurses, nulliparous, Nigeria

