

not in a monogamous relationship is not recommended. It is suggested that sexual behaviour is the most important risk factor for PID in copper-releasing IUDs.¹⁷

Levonorgestrel IUS

The IUS has been suggested to offer protection against PID because of its progestogenic effect on cervical mucus. The European Multicentre Study showed a lower risk of PID in IUS users compared with the copper-releasing IUDs.¹⁸

Conclusions

Unplanned pregnancy is common in opiate users because their menstrual cycle is irregular or amenorrhoeic and no contraception may be used as it is not thought to be needed by the women concerned.

Classically, pregnant heroin users have been reported to be late bookers for antenatal care, present with untreated medical diseases and have a high incidence of obstetric complications. If contraceptive advice is available at a place that is easily accessible to this subgroup of the population it will reduce unplanned pregnancy and associated complications.

Long-term contraceptive methods such as implants and IUDs are more suitable for drug-using women as they require minimal medical supervision. This study has shown good continuation rates for Norplant (90%) and Implanon (100%) but not Depo-Provera. It would appear that the long-term implants might play a dominant role in contraceptive care for this group of women.

Statements on funding and competing interests

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FACULTY AWARDS

The Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care has available a number of annual awards for which applications are invited from Faculty members and non-members as listed below. Details of the individual awards, together with an application form and/or guidelines on how to apply and any eligibility criteria, may be found on the Faculty website at www.ffprhc.org.uk.

Margaret Jackson Prize Essay

Award: Three prizes awarded annually for the best essays on a topic related to contraceptive and sexual health care. The first prize is £300, with £100 each for the two runners-up.

Eligibility: Individuals (undergraduate medical students)

Closing date: 24 March annually

The David Bromham Annual Memorial Award

Award: Prize awarded for a piece of work which through inspiration, innovation or energy has furthered the practice of family planning and reproductive health care in any way and any setting.

Eligibility: Individuals (Faculty members) or teams

Closing date: 7 April annually

International Travelling Scholarship of the Faculty

Award: Scholarship up to the value of £2000 to fund travel abroad to visit international colleagues, services, research or educational establishments to learn about some aspect of family planning or reproductive health care.

Eligibility: Individuals (Faculty members)

Closing date: 7 April annually

The 4-0-8 Sheffield Fund

Award: Approximately £1000 will be allocated every 3 months, either as a single award or divided between the successful applicants, for the purpose of funding training for health care professionals who have limited funding for attending training meetings.

Eligibility: Individuals (Faculty members/non-members)

Closing date: See website for details