

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

CONTRACEPTION IN EUROPE

This issue of the Journal coincides with the European Society of Contraception conference in Edinburgh, UK (23–26 June 2004). It is therefore timely that Medard Lech reviews the status of contraception in Europe (p. 151), highlighting the challenges that face the countries of the former communist block in particular.

ROLE OF NURSES

With their role in reproductive health care becoming increasingly important, Pam Campbell asks **Are nurses realising their potential in sexual health services?** (p. 169). This is the first of a series of articles looking at nursing issues.

INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE

The April issue featured a short communication on the prevalence of intimate partner abuse in women attending a family planning clinic.¹ The same authors now present data on this topic from a pregnancy counselling clinic (p. 165).

CONTRACEPTIVE USE

Training and education about condom use still leaves much to be desired, according to a survey in a genitourinary medicine clinic (p. 159). Our **Consumer Correspondent** (p. 192) offers some explanations as to why contraceptive use is still erratic, despite seemingly adequate education.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

The first of two articles on qualitative research methods in family planning and reproductive health care (p. 171) sets the scene for this increasingly important area. The Journal receives many papers based on qualitative research, but there appears to be a lack of knowledge about how to carry

out such studies to a high standard. We hope these articles will help to guide potential researchers in this field.

FUNDING CRISIS IN FAMILY PLANNING

The article entitled **Mind the gap: responding to the global funding crisis in family planning** (p. 155) raises some issues about the increasing worldwide disparity between the amount of money being provided via aid agencies, and the needs of poorer countries.

PCOS AND YASMIN

Palep-Singh and colleagues discuss whether some of the symptoms of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) may be ameliorated by the combined oral contraceptive pill in their article entitled **An observational study of Yasmin® in the management of women with polycystic ovary syndrome** (p. 163).

CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS UNIT

The CEU has provided guidance on contraceptive choices for breastfeeding women (p. 181) and an illustrative response (p. 190).

CLINICAL CONUNDRUM

Finally, we hope our **Clinical Conundrum** (p. 179) on the topic of confidentiality and patient care will set readers thinking: we look forward to hearing your views on the dilemma discussed in the article.

Anne Szarewski

For the Editorial Team, Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care

Reference

- 1 Keeling J, Birch L. The prevalence rate of domestic abuse in women attending a family planning clinic. *J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care* 2004; **30**(2): 113–114.

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