Letters to the editor/News roundup

the end of the stopper ring and since then I never failed. Many colleagues have tried this method and they have had success with it also.

I had correspondence from the French company that unless the article were to be endorsed by a professor or senior consultant/colleague in family planning then they were supposed to change the design. Once Ortho Gynaec T 380® was discontinued, however it has been adopted for use by other manufacturers. The study is very minor changes, and I am afraid the inherent problem is still present. One has tried to make loading easier but still the problem doesn’t disappear completely.

My proposal was very simple: no matter how you load the introducer rod in the tube it should come out outside the top opening and then one can be absolutely sure that the IUD is released totally and completely and that there is no chance of the IUD being pulled down.

For those colleagues who would like to try my technique they should do the following. Put the IUD on sterile paper. Pull the IUD out further so that one does not pull the thread. Line the rod against the tube with the rod just a few millimetres (say 4–5 mm) higher than the opening and then the lower end of the rod should be cut, which should rest at the end of the rod where there is a ring. Subsequent fitting should now be easier.

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References

Increase in IUD expulsions

I write as the UK distributor for the TT 380 Slimline® intrauterine device (IUD), following the publication of the letter from Drs Hawkins and Callander in the October 2006 issue of the Journal concerning IUD expulsions.

Neither Durbin PLC, nor the French manufacturer (7-MED Industrie), can explain what has happened, although the clinical skills of the two doctors are beyond reproach. Since July 2005, approximately 205 000 TT 380 Slimline devices have been fitted in France alone, with only three reported expulsions. Where am I?

There is a European Standard for the ‘resilience’ of the horizontal arms which the TT 380 Slimline meets, and the manufacturer does not accept that the way the arms regain their shape after compression is connected to the reported expulsions.

I would refer the Journal’s readers to the poster presentation by Dr Paul O’Brien (Westminster PCT, London, UK) at the 8th Congress of the European Society of Contraception held in Edinburgh, UK in June 2004. (NB. Copies of the poster are available from me on request.) This poster reviewed published studies on the T380 ‘A’ version (where the copper sleeves on the horizontal arms stand proud of the plastic) and the T380 ‘Slimline’ version (where the copper on the arms is flush with the plastic and closer to the ends), which may cast some light on the topic.

Dr O’Brien’s review revealed an increase in expulsions in the first year with the ‘Slimline’ version compared to the ‘A’ version. By Year 4 and 5 the expulsion rates with both types were similar.

The T-Safe 380 A changed to the ‘Slimline’ format in June 2005. The results of Dr Hawkins and Callander refer to T-Safe usage up to Autumn 2005. Allowing for the stock holding in the distribution chain, it is probable that most of the T-Safe devices fitted in the period referred to were of the original ‘A’ style. (NB. It is interesting to note that although all the T-Safe devices now available are of the ‘Slimline’ type, the product is still described as ‘380 A’ on its packaging.)

Notwithstanding all of the above remarks, the manufacturer of the TT 380 Slimline device, in view of the volume now used in the UK, has proposed some design changes purely for the UK market. These changes, which will be on stock produced from January 2007, will result in an increase in the resistance to expulsion.

Any readers requiring further information, evaluation samples, and so on, are invited to contact me directly.

Colin G Parker
Manager, Clinic Sales, Darbin PLC, South Harrow, Middlesex, UK. E-mail: colin@darbin.co.uk.

References

Ancient condoms

Further to the article in the October 2006 issue of the Journal on the history of condoms, readers may be interested to know that amongst the finds in Tutankhamen’s tomb was a linen condom with long strings to attach. The condom is now on show in the Cairo Museum alongside the more famous artefacts, which goes to show that one can’t be too careful – even in the afterlife!

Lesley Smith
Curator, Tutbury Castle, Tutbury, Staffordshire, UK. E-mail: info@tutburycastle.com

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NEWS ROUNDPUR

EURAS Study results

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