since this study shows that nearly 4% of contraceptive patients may need them.

Statements on funding and competing interests
Funding None identified. Competing interests None identified.

Author’s note
The work was undertaken by a clinician with Type I NRL allergy so latex-free gloves were always available to examine patients in whom latex allergy was suspected.

References

New websites launched to help couples facing infertility
Infertility Network UK and More To Life, national charities set up to help those suffering from infertility or facing involuntary childlessness, have launched new websites for the one in six couples facing infertility. These offer downloadable fact sheets and books to purchase in the new online shop. The websites offer a members’ only forum and dedicated chatrooms, a first for More To Life users, providing a safe online community facilitated by their Online Community Organiser who is also a qualified counsellor.

Sources: www.infertilitynetworkuk.com and www.moretolife.co.uk

New EQUATOR website
EQUATOR is a new website that aims to provide resources for good reporting of health research. EQUATOR collates all the available guidelines covering a wide range of design and analyses of observational studies. All the guidelines have the same aim: to help authors write clearer papers so that readers can understand the work more fully. CONSORT (for reporting of clinical trials) is probably the best known; others include MOOSE (for meta-analyses of observational studies) and STARLITE (for proposed standards for reporting of literature searches). The Public Library of Science (PloS) asks authors to consider guidelines before submitting studies.

Sources: http://www.plos.org/cms/node/282

Teenage sexual behaviour
Data from almost 5000 pupils from 24 Scottish schools has shown a marked change in study designs. All the guidelines have the same aim: to help authors write clearer papers so that readers can understand the work more fully. CONSORT (for reporting of clinical trials) is probably the best known; others include MOOSE (for meta-analyses of observational studies) and STARLITE (for proposed standards for reporting of literature searches). The Public Library of Science (PloS) asks authors to consider guidelines before submitting studies.

Source: http://www.plos.org/cms/node/282

Sexual awareness in Europe
On Saint Valentine’s Day, a day traditionally dedicated to love and to sexual health, the European Sexual Dysfunction Alliance (ESDA) reminded everyone of the importance of sexual health as a part of overall health. Prevalence studies show that sexual health problems are very common and are often ignored, leading to a negative impact on a person’s quality of life, their personal relationships and their self-esteem. ESDA is an umbrella organisation for patient support helplines across Europe. They have national websites and fact sheets on different sexual problems in different languages and these can be sent to callers who request them free of charge. ESDA helplines in France, Greece, UK, Spain and Sweden received a total of 11 000 calls in 2007. Callers varied between countries, with 92.4% of callers in France being men, compared with 64.5% in Spain. Female callers waited for an average of 3 years of symptoms before calling compared with Spanish men who waited for over 4 years. Problems affecting men included erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation. Women were troubled by reduced sexual interest and desire (50% of female UK callers). ESDA provides information, support and reassurance. A telephone advisor discusses the problem and encourages callers to consult their doctor. It is vital for the public to know that a sexual health problem is often the first sign of an important undiagnosed health problem such as diabetes, hypertension or depression. A visit to the doctor to discuss the problem is crucial as the first step to getting the right assessment, tests, treatment and follow-up.

Source: http://www.esda.org/ïndividual.dsp

‘G’ spot identified
The search for the ‘G’ spot has been led by an Italian researchers to seek out anatomical differences between women who claim to experience vaginal orgasms involving a G spot and those who don’t. A simple test could tell you if it’s time to give up the hunt, or if your partner just needs to try harder.

Researchers had already found biochemical markers relating to heightened sexual function in tissue between the vagina and urethra, where the G spot is said to be located. However, they had been unable to link the presence of these markers to the ability to experience orgasm because of the lack of a reliable definition of the G spot. In a new study they defined the G spot as the anterior part of the vaginal wall and examined how far it protrudes into the urethral opening and how much vaginal tissue is left between the two layers of muscle. The researchers found that women who claimed to experience a ‘G’ spot had a lower proportion of the muscle layer, and a higher proportion of the mucous membrane, than women who did not. They also found that women with a lower proportion of the muscle layer tended to have fewer complaints about sexual activity and pregnancy the government would need to tackle deprivation and socio-economic problems within neighbourhoods. For instance, young women should be empowered to pursue their educational and career aspirations even when background socio-cultural factors have led them to have sex early. This may help break the cycle of deprivation for their children.”

Reference

New CEO for fpa
Julie Bentley has recently been appointed as the fpa’s new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Julie was formerly CEO of personal safety charity, The Suzy Lamplugh Trust. More information about Julie can be found on the fpa’s website where visitors can read The Quick Interview in which Julie talks candidly and answers some of the top questions asked of a new CEO at the start of their tenure with one of the country’s leading sexual health charities.

Source: www.fp.org.uk

Cervical cancer care
Analysis of data from the NHS Cervical Screening Programme revealed that fewer women need repeat cervical smears due to inadequate samples than in previous years. The introduction of liquid-based cytology (LBC) to replace conventional Pap smear tests has significantly reduced the number of inadequate tests from 7.2% in 2005/2006 to 4.7% in 2006/2007. Results of tests are back sooner and access to colposcopy was also faster. The full report entitled Cervical Screening Programme, England 2006-07 is available on The Information Centre website.

Source: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/cervscreen0607

Reference