

Need for better indicators of contraception after abortion

I completely agree with points made by Kelly Blanchard that contraception after medication abortion should be determined by convenience and choice.¹ It is important to provide information on contraception at the time when women are seeking medication abortion care, but acknowledge that people may wish to delay decision-making or starting a method for various reasons.

This accords with our formative research to develop an intervention for post-abortion contraception in Cambodia where women reported wanting to discuss this with their husband or partner, or wait until the abortion was complete, before deciding to start a method.² Such reports have led to the development of interventions to support contraception use after abortion or menstrual regulation over extended periods, with effective contraception use as the primary outcome.^{3,4}

However, an important issue is raised regarding indicators of post-abortion contraception use. Indicators that focus on the proportion of people leaving

the service with a method or starting a method within a specific period of time are common health service indicators and study outcome measures, but as mentioned, may undermine autonomy and real choice.

I would be interested in any thoughts on what might be suitable indicators to measure the quality of post-abortion contraception provision, and how to incentivise healthcare workers to provide information on contraception methods without coercing people into starting a method in order to hit a target.

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