

The Demographic Characteristics of 911 No Scalpel Vasectomy patients

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Objective: Analysis of demographic characteristics of patients who underwent no-Scalpel vasectomy at the family planning unit of SSK Maternity and Women's Health Teaching Hospital.

Design and Methods: The characteristics of 911 patients who had no-Scalpel vasectomy between January 1999 - October 2001 were analysed. Age, marital length, number of children, educational background, the source of information for vasectomy and history of previous operations were recorded. Every case underwent no-Scalpel vasectomy after they signed an informed consent form. **Results:** Mean age of the cases was 39.8 (± 5.6), where 17.3% were under age of 34; 63.5% between 35-44 and 19.2% above 45. Mean marriage length was 16.7 years where 8.7% were married 0-9 years, 56.7% were married 10-19 years, 34.6% were more than 20 years. Mean number of children of these cases was 3.21, with only 1.15% having 1 child, 24% having 2 children, 41.9% having 3 children, 22.6% having 4 children and 10% having 5 or more. Educational levels of the participants were as follows: 1.3% wasn't literate, 63.6% graduated from primary school, 32.7% from middle and high school and 2.34% graduated from university. 61.2% of the cases received information when their wives underwent termination of pregnancy (D/C) in our hospital, 30.2% from our counselor in the family planning unit or at post partum visit, 5.3% from their friends, 1.8% from doctors and 1.6% from media. 14.4% of the cases had a positive history of operation whereas 85.6% gave no history of operation. **Conclusions:** Vasectomy is usually preferred between 30-40 years of age, who have 3 or more children and are married for 10-19 years. Most of the cases are informed at the time of D&C or post partum (after delivery) by family planning unit counselors. Ratio of patients who got information from sources other than our unit was only 8.7%. Educational level didn't seem to be an important factor for accepting vasectomy.