

Four-year clinical experiences with two new copper/silver and copper/gold alloy intrauterine contraceptive devices

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Objective: Alloy IUDs may represent a new generation of intrauterine contraception. This paper evaluates two such devices: a copper/silver- (SilverLily) and a copper/gold-containing (GoldLily) device.

Materials & Methods: In a human phase IV study 4, 178 insertions (2,054 SilverLily and 2,124 GoldLily) were evaluated. The two populations were similar in their demographic and obstetrical characteristics. Statistical analysis was performed with life table calculation as suggested by Tietze.

Results: At the end of the first year, the number of those at risk were 1,250 in the SilverLily and 1,272 in the GoldLily group. These numbers in the 48th month were 216 and 163, respectively. The cumulative woman-month of use for the total follow-up period was 43,405 for the SilverLily users and 41,155 in the GoldLily population. Pregnancy rates were very low during the whole study period (SilverLily: 0.7 and 5.7 in the 12th and 48th month, respectively; GoldLily: 0.8 and 4.5 in the same follow-up periods). Significantly less copper/gold device expelled (0.5 vs. 1.3 in the 12th, and 1.5 vs. 4.4 in the 48 month). The cumulative termination rates of GoldLily were significantly better both in the first ($p=0,002$) and the fourth year ($p=0,000$). According to this, the rate of continuation is high in both periods: 87.6 and 59.9 for SilverLily, and 91.1 and 67.5 for GoldLily.

Conclusion: The results prove that both devices are effective and safe contraceptives. GoldLily, however, showed a significantly better overall performance compared to SilverLily.