

## **The characteristics of the patients to whom IUD was applied in the family planning division of a university clinic in Turkey: a review of ten years' experience**

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**Objective:** The aim of this study is to investigate the characteristics of the patients with the preference of IUD as the method of contraception.

**Design and Method:** The records of the all patients who applied to Family Planning Division of Obstetrics and reviewed. The patients to whom IUD was applied were re-evaluated with the purpose of revealing the characteristics of these patients.

**Results:** During the study period, 5392 IUD insertions were performed in our clinic. The mean age of the patients was 31.7 years. When the educational status was evaluated, 4% was found as illiterate, 35% had a primary school degree, 43% high school degree and only 18% university degree. The mean number of pregnancy was 3, 2 of which were completed with birth and remainder 1 with abortion curettage. When the outcomes of the pregnancies that were not completed with birth were taken into account, the rate of curettage was 60% in these patients. When the outcomes of het last pregnancy was anlyzed, it was found that the rate of curettage was 13% in these patients. When the contraceptive method of choice in the last 3 months was investigated, 50% were found to exercise coitus interruptus, 8% oral contraceptive, 1% ovulation dating and 1% other methods. 26% of the patients were current users of IUD whom applied for the renewal of the device.

**Conclusions:** Even though IUD is an effective contraceptive method, the rates of application have been insufficient yet, similar to the effective contraceptive methods in Turkey. The demographic data and the pregnancy history of the patients suggest that most of the patients are employing ineffective contraceptive methods. The patients education is still one of the mayor key points in the contraception issue in Turkey.