

Fertility after non-complicated and complicated IUD use

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Although the IUD has been in use for about fifty years, it is still controversial how the use of an IUD affects subsequent fertility. The aim of our study was to examine time to pregnancy, pregnancy outcome and the need for infertility work-up in a cohort of copper IUD users.

Methods: From May 1993 to April 1995, 957 women were included in a prospective cohort IUD study in the city of Trondheim, Norway. From this cohort we identified 205 women eligible for study participation. Group A comprised 109 women who removed their IUD for purposes of planning pregnancy, while group B comprised 96 women, who became pregnant or planned pregnancy after a complicated IUD use. Data were collected by a postal questionnaire. All information from the questionnaires was validated against data kept in the medical record at the general practitioner's office or in the hospital record of women who became pregnant or started an infertility work-up. All analyses were done using SPSS.

Results: In group A 93.6% (102:109) of the women became pregnant. Time to conception was unaffected by parity order, duration of use and age at time for removal of the IUD. Among the seven women who did not conceive, four women cancelled pregnancy plans, while three women started an infertility work-up. The distribution of intra- and extrauterine pregnancies did not differ between group A and group B. However, significantly more pregnancies were terminated as induced abortions in group B. The two women (2%) who did not conceive in group B did not start on an infertility work-up.

Conclusion: In line with results from other studies, we found no evidence that prior use of copper-containing IUDs increased the risk of impaired fertility whatever reason for removal.