

Attitudes Towards Contraceptive Pill Use In Two Different Populations In Thrace-Greece

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Objective: To investigate the differentiation in attitudes towards contraceptive pill use in two different populations in Thrace-Greece.

Design and Methods: A retrospective study on representatives of the two major religious subgroups in Thrace: 127 Orthodox Christians and 120 Muslims. The questionnaire detected the women's opinions concerning the contraceptive pill's impact on the risks for cardiovascular disease and cancer, the regulation of menses, the reduction of menstrual cramps, the decrease of menses quantity, the convenience in the daily uptake, the weight gain, depression, headaches, breast tenderness, nausea, dermatological diseases, and future carcinogenesis.

Statistical analysis was performed by use of Chi square test.

Results: Increased percentage of Muslims and decreased percentage of Christians, compared to the expected values, responded "don't know" in the questions about the pill's efficacy in regulating the menses ($p=0.019$), "yes" concerning the inconvenience in the daily uptake ($p=0.032$) and the pill's contribution in nausea ($p=0.003$), and "maybe" in the question concerning the pill's contribution in depression and headaches ($p<0.001$). Increased percentage of Christians and decreased percentage of Muslims responded "yes" concerning the pill's contribution in depression and headaches, and "don't know" concerning the pill's contribution in nausea.

Though there were no significant differences in the rest of the questions, it was clear that the answers "yes" and "maybe" were the leading ones concerning the pill's correlation with the risk for cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Conclusions: Muslims appeared more reluctant concerning the use of the pill. Christians seemed to be better informed about the pill's side and beneficial effects, but both populations were unaware about its safety. There is need to promote information about these topics in the region of Thrace.