

## **Clinical experience with Implanon**

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Objective: To describe our real world experience of insertion and removal of Implanon over a two year period commencing from its introduction in 1999 and compare our experience with published research data.

Study design: Analysis of prospectively collected data during the period of study. Relevant data was collected at the time of clinic attendance and following correspondence or telephone calls received from patients or their doctors.

Results: Between September 1999 and January 2002, we inserted 234 implants and removed 26. Forty-five (19%) were inserted in combination with removal of Norplant, 53 (23%) were primary insertions and 132 (56%) were inserted at the time of termination of pregnancy. we removed 26 implants, about half of which were because of intolerable mood swings. It appears that our patients who had experienced failure of other contraceptive methods resulting in unplanned pregnancies, were more motivated to use Implanon having become aware of its very low failure rate. Experience of vaginal bleeding patterns in users who had Implanon inserted after termination of pregnancy did not appear to be different from those of patients following interval insertion. We continue to experience an increased interest and uptake.

Conclusion: Our clinical experience of Implanon suggests that it is a safe and effective contraceptive and is particularly suitable for those who have experienced failure of other methods and require long-term reversible contraception.