Does HIV infection increase complications after Intra-Uterine Contraception?

Adikari S, Samuel M, Kumar U

Background

As estimated by World Health Organisation about 50% of all HIV infected individuals are women. Comparison data for complications after Intra-Uterine Contraception (IUC) insertion in HIV positive and negative women are lacking.

Aim

The aim of our study is to compare short-term complications and side-effects (within 3 months) after IUC insertion in HIV positive and negative women.

Methods

First 76 HIV negative women who attended for IUC and attended for follow up within the first 3 months in 2013 were selected for a retrospective case notes review. All HIV positive women, who attended for IUC and followed up within 3 months between 2012-2015 included. Data including demographics and complications were collected in addition to HIV related parameters. Fisher’s Exact test and Pearson Chi-squared test were used to compare the groups statistically. (Table 1)

Results

Among the 49 HIV positive women 46 were on treatment and had an undetectable viral load at the time of IUC insertion. Mean CD4 count was 589 cells/μL. Mean age was 38 years in the HIV group and 30 in the negative group. Black ethnicity was common among both groups. Pelvic pain was reported in 6% of the HIV group vs 19% of the non-HIV group (P value = 0.034). 31% of the HIV group reported heavy or prolonged bleeding vs 39% of the negative group. There were no reported cases of Pelvic Inflammatory disease or uterine perforation in either group. 2% of the HIV positive women reported displacement within the first 3 months and none was reported in the HIV negative group. Gynaecological conditions, especially fibroids, were more common in HIV positive women

Complication/ Side effect	HIV positive (49)		HIV negative (51)		Total Percentage of women who experienced side effects		P value (<0.05)
	IUD N = 22	IUS N = 27	IUD N = 34	IUS N = 17	HIV positive (49)	HIV negative (51)	
Heavy or prolonged bleeding	5	10	16	9	31%	39%	0.213
Spotting	1	8	13	4	22%	30%	0.220
Pelvic pain	0	3	8	4	6%	24%	0.033
Lost threads	2	1	5	6	8%	24%	0.018
Expulsion	0	2	2	5	4%	4%	0.637
Discontinuation rate at 3 months	1	3	8	3	8%	17%	0.140

Table 1: Comparison of data between HIV positive and negative women

Conclusions

In the HIV negative group, prevalence of pelvic pain and lost threads were significantly high. There was no significant difference between the other side effects within the two groups. Discontinuation rate at 3 months was smaller in the HIV positive group.

Limitations

We appreciate that the number of patients were limited in this study. Larger studies are needed to investigate above conclusions further.