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Reasons for premature removal of implanon among users in Arsi Zone, Southeast Ethiopia

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Background: Ethiopian government is dedicated to expansion of implanon (a single-rod progesterone-only contraceptive implant) insertion service to meet the huge unmet need in family planning since the beginning of 2010. Nevertheless, opting for premature removal of implanon by the users is very rampant.

Objective: To identify reasons for premature removal of implanon among users.

Method: descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from February 2012 to June 30, 2013. A total sample size of 103 was decided for data collection. Data were entered through Epi info version 3.5.3 and imported to SPSS version 16 software for cleaning and analysis. Numerical summary measures and probabilities were computed. Kaplan Meier survival analysis and error bar were also employed for comparison of reasons for premature removal.

Result: The main reasons for premature removal of implanon among users were heavy/prolonged menstrual bleeding, plan to conceive in the near future, about to leave for abroad and pain on insertion arm representing 36%, 24%, 15% and 13%, respectively. The median duration the study subjects used implanon was 19.5 months. Median duration of premature removal was significantly earlier in those who reasoned heavy/prolonged menstrual bleeding compared with those presented with plan to conceive in the near future.

Conclusion & Recommendation: Reasons for premature removal of implanon are avoidable and the duration implanon used was not long enough to be cost effective. Hence, thorough pre-insertion counseling on implanon side effects and discussing future fertility desire and revising effective management of bleeding side effects are indispensable to enhance the length of time implanon can be used for.

Biography

Abay Burusie has completed his MPH from Addis Ababa University. He is lecturer and researcher at Arsi University, College of Health Sciences (formerly Adama Science and Technology University) since July 2010. He had advised many research works undertaken by medical and other health science students at Arsi University. He has presented scientific paper at annual conference of Ethiopian Public Health Association and is known for delivering trainings health workers on long-term family planning methods, PMTCT and STIs being a national trainer. He used to work at a teaching referral hospital as ART therapist. He is fellow member for Ethiopian Public Health Association. He is member of ethical review committee of College of Health Sciences.

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