

To evaluate the knowledge, attitude, awareness and practice of emergency

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Patients and methods

100 women aged between 18 to 45 years visiting antenatal clinic at Smt Sucheta Kripalani Hospital, Delhi were interviewed and responses entered in a specially designed questionnaire of knowledge, attitude and practices of emergency contraceptive pills.

Results

The study was conducted on 100 women out of which 72 were in 18-25 yrs, 26 in 26-35 yrs and 2 in 36-45 yrs age group. The mean age of the group was 24.67 years. 86 of them were hindu. 14% of them were illiterate. 52% women had no living children. 26 women admitted to having abortion previously out of which 5 (19.23%) were induced abortions. 32% of the women had used contraception earlier out of which condom was the most popular method (56.3%) followed by oral contraceptive pills (9.4%) and 31.2% of the women had used two or more methods of contraception. 74% of the women had heard about EC and only 6 (8.1%) of them had ever used it. None of them knew that IUD can be used for

emergency contraception. 46 (62.2%) out of those who had knowledge about EC knew the correct timing of its use. The source of knowledge in majority of them (77%) had been the electronic media (television) followed by friend or relative (18.9%). 66.2% of the women thought of electronic media (television) as the method to give information to the people about EC. Majority of them (63.5%) knew that it was available at the pharmacy. 25.7% of the women had concerns about its use. 59.5% of the women would recommend it to a friend in need and 54.1% agreed to use it in the future.

Conclusions

Although awareness of emergency contraception is at an apparent level the rate of using the method is at a very low level. Health facilitator should educate the masses about EC, emphasizing knowledge about the available methods, correct timing, action and side effects of EC which may act as a barrier to its use in the event of unprotected sexual intercourse.