

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES REGARDING CONTRACEPTIVE CARE, PARTICULARLY EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AMONG YOUNG GIRLS IN BELGRADE

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Objectives: The objective of this research was to describe knowledge and attitudes regarding contraceptive care, particularly emergency contraception among sexually active adolescent girls. Methods: The investigation included 200 sexually active young girls, aged 15-24 years. The subjects were healthy, non-pregnant and all of them had had last one unprotected sexual intercourse. Results: Girls were informed about contraception through different ways, 23% from their mothers, 19% from sisters or girlfriends, 8% from partners, 15 % from doctors and 35 % of them found out in school or in media. 97% of respondents heard about emergency contraception, while only 66% of respondents knew how to use it. 24% of respondents considered withdrawal combined with emergency contraception the most appropriate contraceptive protection for young people. During the first sexual intercourse 46 % of respondents did not want to use contraception. At the time of this research 50 % of girls used a condom regularly, 9 % used a condom occasionally and 38 % of them used the method of withdrawal. All respondents think that emergency contraception is safe and reliable protection against unwanted pregnancy. Only 28 % of respondents heard for the side effects of emergency contraception, while only 5 % of them considered side effects to be serious. 95 % of respondents would use emergency contraception again, while only 15% respondents who used emergency contraception as a form of protection against unwanted pregnancy would choose OHC pill. Conclusions: Adolescents knowledge about contraception is poor, especially about emergency contraception. Their knowledge and attitudes about contraception are significantly different and asynchronous, especially when it comes to emergency contraception. Therefore, efforts should be made so that adolescents find out about contraception from doctors as much as possible.