VASECTOMY: THE FEMALE PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF GHANA

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Although vasectomy is one of the safest, simplest and inexpensive modern contraceptive methods, it remains relatively ‘invisible’ in Ghana. The consent of women may be a significant incentive in influencing their husbands to adopt vasectomy. This paper examined the perspectives of women on vasectomy as a contraceptive option. A cross-sectional survey was conducted among women accessing long term or permanent family planning methods at various centers in selected districts in the Central Region of Ghana. Stata version 11.0 software was used for data analysis. Awareness of vasectomy was found to be 32% among the sample (n=300). While 62% of participants would prefer their husbands to undergo vasectomy rather than they having bilateral tubal ligation (BLT), 79% would support their husband’s decision to opt for vasectomy. Fear that the procedure could cause sexual weakness or impotency (40%) was popularly cited among women who would not support vasectomy. Pearson’s chi-squared tests indicated a statistically significant association (p < 0.05) between ethnicity, previous contraceptive use, awareness of vasectomy, and preference for husbands to have vasectomy instead of women having BLT. A statistically significant association (p < 0.05) was also found between age of participant, educational status, duration of marriage, religious affiliation, and the willingness for women to support their husbands if they opted for vasectomy. There is therefore the need for the involvement of women in the promotion of vasectomy through vigorous publicity and education.