

Contraceptive Use at an STD Clinic in Kumasi, Ghana

Yaw Adu-Sarkodie¹, Markus Juerg Steiner², John Dekyem Attafuah³

ABSTRACT

We interviewed 298 consecutive clients attending a sexually transmitted diseases (STD) clinic in Kumasi, Ghana to assess their contraceptive practices and willingness to accept male condoms. Almost a quarter of females (22%) and 14 percent of males were diagnosed HIV positive. Condom use among females was low with almost three-fourths (72%) reporting never having used condoms in the past three months. Half the males (47%) said they used condoms all or most of the time. The most common reason for nonuse was desired pregnancy (females 31%; males 20%). Almost all the clients currently using condoms (females 100%; males 89%) said they never had problems obtaining condoms. More males (76%) than females (35%) accepted free condoms distributed at the clinic as part of this study. (*Afr J Reprod Health* 1998;2(2):57–65)

RÉSUMÉ

Emploi de contraceptifs dans une clinique de MST à Kumasi, Ghana. Nous avons interviewé 298 clients fréquentant une clinique de maladies sexuellement transmissibles (MST) de Kumasi au Ghana, afin d'évaluer leur usage de méthodes contraceptives et leur volonté d'accepter ou non des préservatifs pour homme. Près du quart des femmes (22%) et 14 pour cent des hommes étaient diagnostiqués comme étant séropositifs au VIH. L'usage du préservatif auprès des femmes était faible, avec près des trois-quarts d'entre elles reportant n'avoir jamais utilisé de préservatifs au cours des 3 derniers mois. La moitié des hommes (47%) a déclaré avoir toujours ou la plupart du temps, utilisé des préservatifs. La raison la plus communément citée pour l'abandon de la méthode contraceptive était le désir d'avoir des enfants (31% des femmes et 20% des hommes). Presque tous les clients maintenant sous méthode contraceptive (100% des femmes et 89% des hommes) ont déclaré n'avoir jamais rencontré de difficultés à se procurer des préservatifs. Les hommes (76%) furent plus nombreux que les femmes (35%) à avoir accepté des préservatifs gratuits qui étaient distribués à la clinique dans le cadre de cette étude. (*Rev Afr Santé Reprod* 1998; 2 (2):57–65)

KEY WORDS: Sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, condoms, developing countries, HIV infections

¹ Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana, ² Family Health International, Research Triangle Park, USA, ³ Research International, Accra, Ghana

Correspondence to: M. Steiner, Family Health International, P.O. Box 13950, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, USA.

1) attend to difficult/referred cases; 2) examine anti-microbial sensitivity patterns of STD organisms on an ongoing basis in order to inform the national AIDS/STD programme; 3) formulate appropriate research questions and have the institutional capability to conduct such research; and 4) target clients with interventions to promote correct and consistent condom use. As this study demonstrated, a majority of male clients interviewed reported some condom use. However, less than one-third reported always using condoms, while a majority of the females reported never having used condoms in the past three months. Clearly, condom promotion among this high-risk group should be a public health priority.

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