

Tiina Backman

**User satisfaction, efficacy and safety of the levonorgestrel intrauterine contraceptive system.
A nation-wide surveillance study of a cohort of 17 360 Finnish women**

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Turku
Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Turku
tiina.backman@fimnet.fi

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Opponent, docent Oskari Heikinheimo, University of Helsinki

This study was conducted to evaluate user satisfaction and safety (i.e. pregnancy and breast cancer) among Finnish women who had chosen the LNG IUS for their contraceptive method on the basis of the information they had received at regular family planning consultation. A questionnaire was sent to 23,885 LNG IUS users of whom 17,914 (75 %) responded. Experience on the use of the LNG IUS covered 58,000 woman years. The mean age of the respondents was 36 years. The 1- and 5-year continuation rates for the LNG IUS were 93 and 65, respectively. The risk of premature removal of the LNG IUS was highest among women who reported having experienced excessive bleeding and spotting during the use of the LNG IUS. The risk of premature removal was significantly lower in women who experienced total or occasional loss of menstruation during the use of the LNG IUS.

The information received before the insertion of the LNG IUS was strongly associated with user satisfaction. The respondents who reported that they were very well or fairly well informed about the possible adverse effects of the LNG IUS were more satisfied than the less well informed respondents regardless of whether or not they actually experienced symptoms suggestive of adverse events

A total of 64 pregnancies were related to the use of the LNG IUS. The 1- and 5-year pregnancy rates were 0.1 and 0.5 per 100 users, respectively. All women with a LNG IUS-related pregnancy suspected that they were pregnant on the basis of characteristic pregnancy symptoms. Ectopic pregnancies constituted 53 % of all pregnancies among the LNG IUS-related pregnancies.

During 1990-2000, 165 breast cancer cases among the study population (0.95 %) were reported to the Finnish Cancer Registry. The risk of breast cancer did not seem to differ from the average Finnish female population of similar age.

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