ABSTRACT

Background:
Contraception is the intentional use of temporary, long-term or permanent methods to prevent pregnancy. The consistent and correct use of contraceptives ensures that unintended pregnancies and pregnancy-related health risks are prevented.

Objectives:
To assess the prevalence, types and level of knowledge on the correct use of hormonal contraceptives among women of reproductive age at Kenyatta National Hospital.

Methodology:
A cross-sectional study was carried out targeting 400 women in their reproductive age at Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya. Data was collected using an interviewer administered questionnaire and analyzed using SPSS version 20 into descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results:
The prevalence of contraceptive use was 42.8%. Contraceptive use was associated with number of children [OR 1.7 (1.3-2.1)] $p<0.001$. 56.1% of contraceptive users were on hormonal contraceptives. Injectable contraceptives were the most preferred followed by implants and pills. The choice of contraceptive methods was associated with age [OR 2.003 (1.330-3.017)] $p=0.001$ and level of education [OR 1.697 (1.135-2.539)] $p=0.010$. The level of knowledge on the correct use of hormonal contraceptive use was limited and was associated with the level of education [OR 1.389 (1.144-2.051)] $p=0.000$.

Conclusion:
Contraceptive use is low compared to knowledge of contraceptives. Injectable contraceptives are the most preferred hormonal contraceptives. The level of knowledge on the correct use of hormonal contraceptive is low.