PERCEPTION AND UPTAKE OF CONTRACEPTION AMONG HEALTH WORKERS IN ILE-IFE, SOUTH WESTERN NIGERIA

Olaleye Atinke O, Orji Ernest O, Akintayo Akinyemi A, Olaleye Akinyemi O, Imaralu John O
Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

OBJECTIVES
To assess the perception of health workers towards contraceptive methods, determine the proportion of health workers using modern contraceptive methods and identify factors influencing their contraceptive practice.

METHODS
A cross sectional survey of 300 practicing nurses in the health facilities within Ile-Ife was done using pre-tested, self-administered semi-structured questionnaires. Data obtained was analysed using SPSS version 15.0 with a confidence level of 95% (p<0.05). Respondents were grouped as matrons (grp 1), staff nurses (grp 2), nursing officers (grp 3) and midwives (grp 4).

RESULTS
Most respondents <30years, married, multiparous and had practised for more than 2years. Contraceptive prevalence was 75.2%. A third of the respondents except matrons had poor knowledge of injectables and oral contraceptive pills (33.6-37.7%). Some respondents (26%) believed that contraception should be limited to women who had completed their families, while 32.4% were either uncertain or disagreed with the safety of contraceptives. Desire for another pregnancy was the main reason for discontinuing contraception (51.2%).

CONCLUSIONS
Knowledge and perception of contraception among nurses in Ile-Ife is relatively poor. Ensuring accurate information on contraception among this target group of health workers is an important step towards achieving success in the national family planning programme.

References