

## **SAND abstract No. 72 from the BEACH program 2004–05**

### **Subject: Contraception use among female general practice patients aged 16–44 years**

**Organisation supporting this study:** Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd

**Issues:** The prevalence of contraception use in female patients aged 16 years or more and the type of contraception used; where an oral contraception pill (OCP) was prescribed for contraception, the name of OCP used; the type of prescription for the OCP, and the patient reported level of compliance with the OCP regimen.

**Sample:** 536 female patient respondents (aged 16 to 44 years) from 76 GPs; data collection period: 13/07/04 to 30/10/04.

**Method:** Detailed in the paper entitled 'SAND Method 2004–05' on this website:  
<[http://www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND\\_abstracts.htm](http://www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND_abstracts.htm)>.

### **Summary of results**

Five hundred and thirty-six women aged 16 to 44 years answered the questions on contraception. Nearly half (49.8, 95% CI: 42.9–56.8) were on a form of contraception. Of those on contraception, the majority were using an oral contraceptive (63.2%), 8.7% (23/266) were using implants, 5.3% (14/266) were using pharmacological injections, and 15.0% (40/266) were using condoms. Only 2 women were using diaphragms for contraception.

Just over half of young female patients aged 16–24 years were using a form of contraception (56.1%). Slightly fewer than half the women aged 25 to 44 years were using a contraceptive (47.4%). Women aged 25–44 years were less likely to be using oral contraceptives (27.8%, 95% CI: 22.3–33.4) than younger women (40.8%, 95% CI: 33.5–48.2).

Nearly one quarter (24.4%) of women on oral contraceptives reported obtaining the contraceptive through private prescription. For private prescriptions the most common medication was cyproterone/ethinylestradiol (51.3%), followed by drospirenone/ethinylestradiol (20.5%) and levonorgestrel/ethinylestradiol (20.5%). The most common oral contraceptive medications overall were levonogestrel/ethinylestradiol (63.3%), cyproterone/ethinylestradiol (13.9%) and norethisterone/ethinylestradiol (7.8%). Over half of the patients on oral contraception (56.0%) reported that they never or very rarely forgot to take their oral contraceptives.

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