

Education and income level affect attitude towards contraception

Source: *Contraception* 2010; Advance online publication

Determining which psychosocial behaviors aid in predicting patient contraceptive selection, taking socioeconomic factors into account.

MedWire News: Women see a greater benefit in the ease of use of their contraceptive method as their education level increases, say researchers.

Conversely, negative perceptions of contraception—due to a fear of side effects— increase as women’s income levels decrease, adds the team.

“Special counseling by practitioners to improve patient’s self-efficacy, ultimately enhancing contraceptive adherence, are warranted,” comment Wendy Brown and colleagues from North Dakota State University-College in Fargo, USA.

Using a survey based on the Health Belief Model, Brown et al asked 150 individuals (72 women) to identify their method of contraception, rank their reasons for choosing it, and rate how satisfied they were with it and their confidence in its efficacy.

The most important reason given for contraceptive choice was effectiveness, followed by cost.

Ease of use ranked among the top three reasons for current choice as patient education levels increased from high school or less, to college graduate.

In comparison, an increase in income level (less than US \$5,000 [€3,643] per year to more than \$75,000 [€54,647] per year) made women less likely to worry about the potential side effects of their contraception.