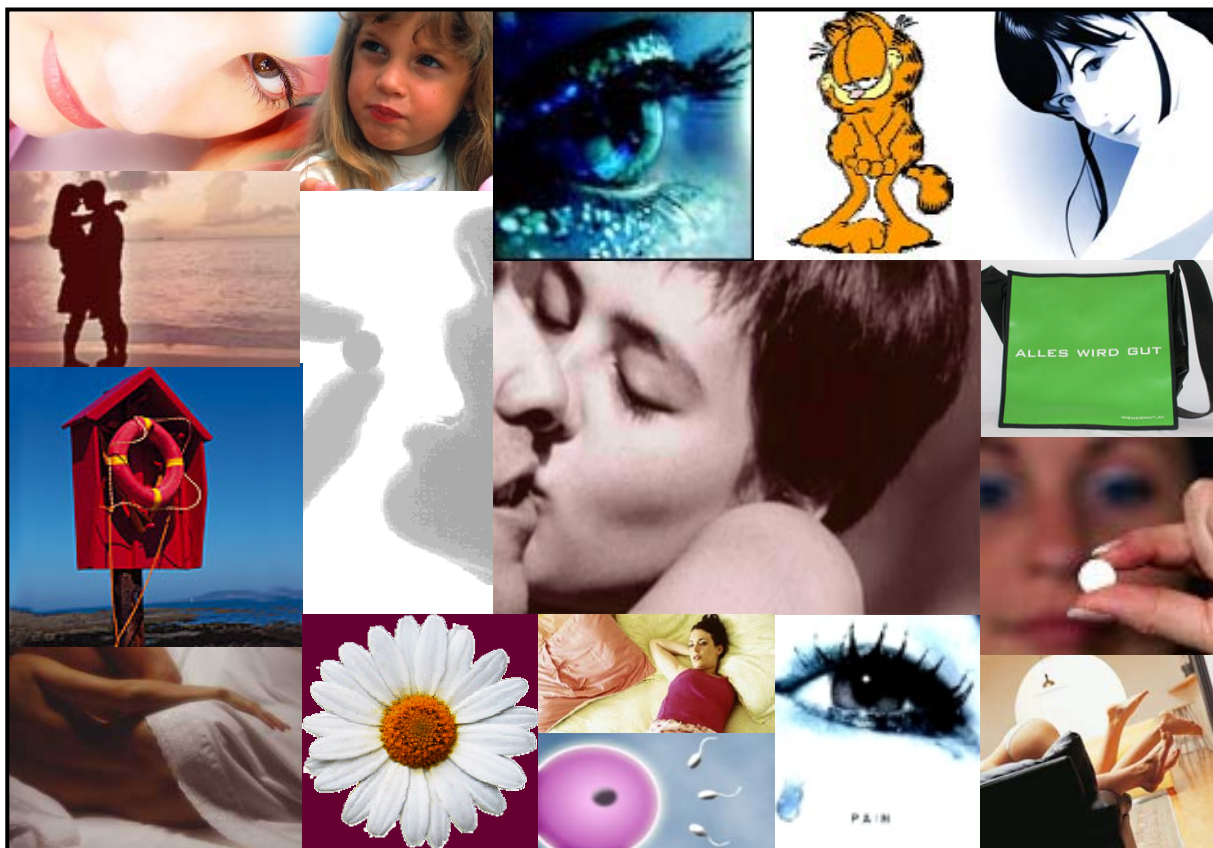


Emergency Contraception- user's profile



Masterarbeit

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Abstract

Background and Objectives

Since 2002 in Swiss pharmacies it is allowed to dispense the emergency hormonal contraception (EC, „morning after pill“, NorLevo®, 2x 75 mg Levonorgestrel) without medical prescription. The “morning after pill” can only be dispensed by the pharmacist him-/ herself after a detailed counselling interview.

Recently published studies from Ireland, Belgium and Great Britain examined the profile of EC users.

Corresponding data about the profile of EC users for Switzerland are, as yet, unavailable.

Aims of the study:

- Assess the profile of EC users
- Collect information about the quality of counselling

Methods

In selected pharmacies women requesting EC were recruited. After counselling and completion of their visit, they were invited to complete a questionnaire. Women have been consecutively recruited from 14th May to 27th June 2007.

The official “morning after pill” protocol from the pharmacy and the questionnaire completed by the women are evaluated. Both forms are linked by a code. Data are collected anonymously.

Results

Repeated EC use did not increase significantly since 2003 (49.8% vs. 50.9%, $p=0.801$). In the pharmacy “condom failure” was mentioned most frequently as reason for the request of EC (66.3%). But the anonymous questionnaire provided indications that “condom failure” is used as an excuse in the pharmacy. EC users are very satisfied with the counselling (67.9%) and appreciate the fast and easy access to the drug through the pharmacy (78.6%). The women felt that the privacy during the counselling was good (good/ very good, 92.9%). The questions about their knowledge of the action of the EC (96.3%) and the protection against sexually transmitted infections (STI) through the EC (100%) were mainly answered correctly.

Conclusion

In this study setting it could be shown that a good quality of counselling can be achieved. No major changes were detected in the profile of the EC users between 2003 and 2006.