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TITLE

COMPARISON OF PREGNANCY EXCLUSION CRITERIA BETWEEN WOMEN IN THEIR EARLIER AND LATER REPRODUCTIVE YEARS USING THE PREGNANCY REASONABLY EXCLUDED GUIDE (PREG) PRIOR TO INTRAUTERINE PROCEDURES.

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ABSTRACT

Context: In a procedure-based practice, a predictive yet cost efficient way of excluding pregnancy is needed.

Objective: To compare criteria for pregnancy exclusion in women in their earlier vs. later reproductive years using a history based tool.

Patients: Women ages 18-55 years presenting for intrauterine procedures.

Methods: The PREG, partly based on WHO criteria, was administered at Mayo Clinic. Responses included: currently pregnant, negative pregnancy test today, started normal menses within 7 days, no coitus since early pregnancy loss, delivery within 4 weeks, no coitus since last menses, consistent use of hormonal contraception, tubal ligation, partner with vasectomy, menopause, no coitus since delivery or none of the above.

Interventions: Chi-square analysis was used for comparison between responses in younger (age 18-35) vs. older (age 45-55) women.

Main outcome measures: Differences in rate of pregnancy testing and of PREG responses between the age groups.

Results: Only 13.3% of 98 older and 19.4% of 232 younger women required pregnancy testing following PREG. In older women, the most common pregnancy exclusion criteria were: bilateral tubal ligation (20.4%), vasectomy (14.3%) and no coitus since last menses (13.3%). In younger women the most common pregnancy exclusion criteria were: no coitus since delivery (21.5%), PREG-triggered pregnancy test (19.4%) and hormonal contraception (16.8%). Pregnancy was more commonly excluded in the older age group based on BTL ($p=0.002$), vasectomy ($p<0.001$), and menopause ($p<0.001$) whereas in the younger group, pregnancy was more likely excluded based on no coitus since delivery ($p<0.001$) and PREG-triggered pregnancy test ($p=0.004$).

Conclusions: Later reproductive age women are more likely to have pregnancy exclusion based on history than younger women. The most common criteria for pregnancy exclusion differ with age.

INSTITUTE

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