Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs regarding intrauterine contraception for nulliparous women: a survey of healthcare providers in Latin America

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Objective:
The objective of this study was to investigate knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about intrauterine contraception (IUC) for nulliparous women among healthcare professionals (HCPs) in Latin America.

Methods:
A survey was conducted online. Respondents were gynaecologists (n=372) or general practitioners (n=30) from Brazil (n=101), Colombia (n=100), Mexico (n=100) and Argentina (n=101) who saw at least 20 women per month for contraception.

Results:
When asked to report their top three barriers when considering IUC for nulliparous women, HCPs' most frequent responses were: pelvic inflammatory disease (52%), infertility (41%), difficult insertion (n=40%) and insertion pain (34%). Concern about insertion pain was reported most frequently in Mexico (49%) and least frequently in Argentina (21%). Concern about difficult insertion was reported most frequently in Brazil (52%) and least frequently in Mexico (26%). Of 366 HCPs who said that they insert IUC, 22% reported that they never insert IUC in nulliparous women. Overall, 58% correctly identified that in the World Health Organization (WHO) Medical Eligibility Criteria for IUC, nulliparity is category 2 (benefits outweigh risk); 73% in Brazil answered correctly compared with 51-54% in Colombia, Mexico and Argentina.

Conclusion:
Misperceptions regarding IUC for nulliparous women are widespread in Latin America. Knowledge of the WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria needs to be increased.