



Reasons for Early Removal of Long Acting Contraceptive Implant in a Provincial Setting in Papua New Guinea

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Background: Papua New Guinea (PNG) has a high maternal mortality ratio, a low contraceptive prevalence rate and a high-unmet need for family planning (FP). Although contraceptive implants have been widely used, many women have been seeking early implant removal for various reasons.

Objective: To investigate the reasons for early removal of contraceptive implants.

Methods: A prospective observational study in the FP clinic over 12 month period, looking at the reasons for early removal of Contraceptive implant.

Reasons for Removal (n=905)	Primary Reason Frequency (%)
Due for Removal	208(22.6)
Bilateral Tubal Ligation	7 (0.8)
Change of Method	44 (4.8)
Wants another child	108 (11.7)
Domestic Violence	11 (1.2)
Side effects (n=527)	527 (58.9)
Irregular Bleeding	211 (40.0)
Weight Issues	16(3.0)
Headache	52(9.9)
Backache	39(7.4)
Bothersome	158 (30.0)
Wound infections	51 (9.7)

Table 1: Reasons for Implant Removal

Results: Of 1028 women, 95% were married and majority (772) were unemployed. The mean age was 29 and the majority (71%) were between P1-3. Discouragement of FP from family members, education level and lack of proper counselling were also observed to influence implant removal.

The most common reason for early implant removal was for side effects with the most common being Irregular bleeding (211/527).

Reasons	Number	Accepted time interval ≥36 months	Early Removal <36months	P-value
Due for Removal	208/900	196 (36.6)	12 (3.3)	≤0.01
Bilateral Tubal Ligation	7/900	5 (0.9)	2 (0.5)	0.71
Change of Method	44/900	34 (6.3)	9 (2.5)	0.01
Wants another child	108/900	70 (13.1)	35 (9.6)	0.17
Domestic Violence	11/900	4 (0.8)	6 (1.7)	0.33
Side effects (527)	527/900	227 (42.3)	300 (82.4)	≤0.01

Table 2: Reasons for Implant Removal Vs the accepted time interval and early removal.

Conclusion: Although implant can be an effective method of meeting the high FP demand in PNG, improved level of education, increased awareness and counselling are needed in order to improve its uptake and effectiveness.