

EDITORIAL

Understanding the Patients' Choice in Reproductive Health

Wachyu Hadisaputra

In our previous issues, we discussed about the Millenium Development Goal of reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters and achieving universal access to reproductive health. The MDG 5 is aimed to reduce maternal mortality to 102 per 100.000 birth by 2015.¹ The latest data on 2010 showed that Indonesia's maternal mortality rate of 220 per 100,000, a mere decrease from 228 per 100,000 in 2007, and still remains as one of the highest in Southeast Asia.²

One of the main concern in reproductive health is the use of contraception. The participant for family planning program in 2010 was 44.738.378 women, 19% of which are new participants. Ideally, contraceptive decision is the responsibility of both men and women. However, in Indonesia, contraceptive use is still dominated by women (96,82%).³ The most preferred method of contraception is still the short-term method, namely the injectable method and pill (47,19% and 26,81%, respectively).⁴

The decision of using and choosing contraception thereby lies in the hands of women. There are multiple factors that could influence their decision, for example age, education, social background and many more. We as obstetrician and gynecologists, are the leading force in women's health. We have to be able to understand these factors and react accordingly in order to convince the patients to make the best choice for themselves.

One article in this issue by Gunardi et al studied the profile of contraceptive users. This article discusses the background of the women coming for contraception consultation and finds an uncommon result of the women's choice in contraceptive method. This could generate ideas of new ways to advise women to choose longer-term contraceptive method as opposed to the popular short term contraceptive method.

We have also another article discussing about the women's choice of delivery facility by Astuti et al. Other than contraception, birth occurring outside the healthcare facility is also the main problem in reducing maternal mortality. This article emphasizes on motivation from their environment as the main influence of the women decisions.

These articles provide valuable information for all of us regarding our way in dealing with our patients. Only by understanding the background of the women's decisions could we improve and advise them to make the best choices for their health. Here in Indonesian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology we always try to provide knowledge on how to improve the practice of our profession. We express our gratitude to all authors who had submitted their works and we encourage more authors to submit their articles.

References

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