Author's response to reviews

Title: Do Indonesian medical practitioners approve the availability of emergency contraception over-the-counter? A survey of general practitioners and obstetricians in Jakarta.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewers

Title: Do Indonesian medical practitioners approve the availability of emergency contraception over-the-counter? A survey of general practitioners and obstetricians in Jakarta.

Version 1: Date 11 March 2005

Response to Reviewer Edith Weisberg

The reviewer felt it was unclear how many respondents were from urban or rural areas and if this affected their knowledge and attitudes to EC.

It is stated in the text that 93% of respondents worked in Jakarta (p7) and in Table 1 that 93% of respondents worked in Jakarta, 3% worked in a rural area and 4% worked in both. There was no difference between attitudes and practices of rural and urban respondents. However, this result wasn’t reported as the number of rural respondents was so low. We have actually presented this as a survey of practitioners in Jakarta, as we cannot make any conclusions about practitioners outside Jakarta.

Does the religious breakdown of participants reflect the percentage of different religions represented amongst GPs and O&Gs, and is the religious background of participants likely to affect their views?

The religious background of the participants were similar to the general population, perhaps a slightly lower proportion of participants were Muslim (68%) than the general population which is usually quoted as about 85%. I’m not sure if the proportion of medical practitioners who belong to the different religions is the same as the general population. We did look at the association between religion and attitudes and practices of the respondents, but did not find any statistically significant association. In the presentation of the results about attitude to emergency contraception over-the-counter, I have added a sentence in order to present the univariate analysis of religion and approval of EC OTC (p11).

“The p-values of the Wald statistic for all variables were <0.05, except religion which was 0.179 and marital which 0.693. Independent variables were entered in the model if the p-value of the Wald statistic was ≤0.25 [18], therefore all variables were entered initially except marital status.”

Were missing data sporadic or were a limited number of participants responsible for all the missing data?

The demographic data were completed well, but a number of participants did not complete the answers about their prescribing practices or the knowledge questions. The sentence about missing data has been revised (p7):
“Some participants completed the demographic responses fully, but did not complete all the responses about emergency contraception, therefore denominators for responses vary.”

A further conclusion appears to be that attitudes could possibly be influenced by further education of Indonesian doctors and the efficacy and mode of action of EC.

The first sentence of the Conclusion has been revised (p15):

“Medical practitioners in Indonesia are not familiar with EC and additional education about the efficacy and mode of action of EC could influence their attitude towards EC.”

The second reviewer has made no suggestions for revision.