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**COLLABORATIVE PRE-INTRODUCTION STUDY OF
THE CLINICAL PERFORMANCE AND ACCEPTABILITY OF
NORPLANT[®] IN PERU**

FINAL REPORT

**POPULATION COUNCIL AWARD NO. I88.33A,
UNIVERSIDAD PERUANA CAYETANO HEREDIA**

Period Covered: July 1, 1988 - December 15, 1989

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1. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project initiated with a preparatory phase, during which the researchers were trained in insertion and removal techniques in Santo Domingo and the forms and procedures were redied. After this phase was completed and when the supply of Norplant implants and trocars were received, the project began clinical activities.

Clinical activities

Clinical activities of the project began at the three participating centers, the Arzobispo Loayza and Cayetano Heredia Hospitals and the Clínica Patres, 30 November of 1988, the first implant being inserted at the Hospital Loayza. At the closing date of this report, the total number of insertions and removals by center was:

	<u>Insertions</u>	<u>Removals</u>
Hospital Arzobispo Loayza:	54	3
Hospital Cayetano Heredia:	59	1
Clínica Patres:	189	8
TOTALS:	302	12

The intake of new acceptors at the public hospitals continues to be affected by labor problems, and the flow of acceptors is slow.

The clinical performance of Norplant is quite remarkable: no pregnancies have occurred as of this writing and only twelve removals have been performed, due to the

following: Headache,4; Bleeding irregularities,2; Pain at implant site,1;Other medical reasons,2; Personal reasons,3. As described below,3 acceptors have been lost to follow up.

Acceptor profile.

We have continued the analysis of the more salient characteristics of the acceptors of Norplant.They are presented briefly in the following tables:

AGE DISTRIBUTION

<u>Age groups</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
18-19	6	2.0
20-24	60	19.9
25-29	115	38.1
30-34	85	28.1
35 +	36	11.9

EDUCATION

<u>Levels</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
College /Tech	108	35.8
High School	134	44.3
Incomp.High Sch.	34	11.3
Primary	16	5.3
Incomp.Primary	10	3.3

NUMBER OF LIVING CHILDREN

Number	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
One	93	30.8
Two	121	40.1
Three	52	17.2
Four	17	5.6
Five to seven	11	3.3
None	8	2.7

PREVIOUS USE OF FP METHODS

<u>Methods</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
IUD	86	28.5
Pill	71	23.5
Injectable	11	3.6
Condon/Vaginal	38	12.6
Rhythm	46	15.2
Withdrawal	4	1.3
Other	6	2.0
None	40	13.6

PREGNANCY INTENTIONS

<u>Desires pregnancy</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
Yes	131	43.3
No	71	56.6

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PREVIOUS ABORTIONS

Number	N	
One	90	29.8
Two	40	13.3
Three	9	3.0
Four to six	3	0.9

It can be seen that Norplant acceptors in the project are predominantly young women under thirty years of age, that are highly educated. Most of the acceptors have one or two children and only a few have more than three. Two thirds have previously used modern contraceptives, with one out of two having used the IUD or the pill.

Two characteristics deserve special comment: Fifty-seven per cent of the acceptors do not plan an additional pregnancy, i.e., they are limiters, and one out of two have had one or more abortions. These findings indicate that Norplant acceptors in the project are highly educated and motivated women that have often resorted to abortion to prevent an additional birth, and want to use a method that is highly effective.

Field Visits

As described in our previous report, field work initiated in April, when acceptors failed to comply with scheduled appointments and could not be reached by telephone or did not answer phone requests. The labor problems at the public hospitals have been a factor of noncompliance, since some women assumed that they would not be attended. A special effort has been made to visit acceptors that failed to comply with their appointments, and only three acceptors have been lost to follow up, since evidently they gave incorrect addresses and references.

We have observed that the clients attending the university hospitals are more likely to miss appointments or fail to return for scheduled controls; this is probably due to the fact that they belong to a lower socioeconomic level than those seen at the Clínica Patres.

Investigators Meetings

The researchers continue to meet frequently to monitor project advance and to share experiences

The Coordinating Committee, integrated by the investigators plus Lic. Susana Galdos and Dr. Hilda Mercado, met on April 13 with Dr. Juan Diaz and Ms. Margarita Diaz to review project advance.

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Reports

We have continued to analyze and present the data generated by the project at various medical and FP meetings. The following presentations have been made:

- Panel on FP methods. 19 May. Lima.
- II Peruvian Family Planning Congress. 24 May. Lima.
- II Latinamerican FP Congress. 22 August.
Rio de Janeiro.
- II Peruvian Feminist Congress. 22 September
Huampani.
- International Course on Research in Human
Reproduction and Family Planning. 21 November, Lima.

We have also published reports of the work in progress in the Bulletins edited by IEPO and by the project SPF-Pathfinder. Copies of this publications have been attached to our previous report.

Diffusion of information

The press and TV have made several reports on Norplant and on the project. Channel 9 TV included a spot on its daily evening news showing the technique of Norplant insertion recorded at the Clinica Patres.

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Visits.

Deborah Rogou and María Londoño, Population Council consultants visited the project sites from 23 to 29 November, to prepare a training course for personnel in charge of counseling prospective clients of FP programs. They met with project personnel and conducted interviews at the three outpatient locations, Hospitals Loayza and Cayetano Heredia and Clínica Patres.

II ANALYSIS.

From the clinical stand point, the project has advanced well and Norplant is now a well accepted hormonal method. The clinical performance to date has been quite remarkable with no pregnancies and only twelve removals taking place in 302 insertions, confirming the fact that the effectiveness of Norplant is second only to that of voluntary surgical contraception.

We have received a number of requests from persons and institutions interested in obtaining training on insertion and removal techniques, however, due to the limited number of acceptors to date, we have declined to offer such training.

Project implementation faced two related problems:

- The slow advance of the project, in terms of the enrollment of new acceptors, due to the frequent labor problems affecting the university hospitals, and,

-The economic distortions created by the rapid devaluation of the Peruvian currency and the hyperinflation, that is expected to reach over 2000% in 1989, making it very difficult to administer the project.

III. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We have applied for a second year of project support to the Population Council and have also discussed the means to secure AID funding to complete the budget required for the second year of project activities.

The outstanding clinical performance of Norplant in our experience has been made known in various national meetings and in the II Latinamerican FP Congress and we have included the observation of Norplant insertion in the Courses on FP that our Institute organizes. We plan to offer in the future training on the insertion and removal of Norplant, based on the experience gained in the project, and in the increased numbers of acceptors requesting Norplant in the participating clinics.