Difficult IUD insertions

I read Dr Draper’s letter 1 in the January 2008 issue of the Journal with great interest. May I suggest that another factor may be the increased intensity of counselling these days? This is of course necessary as patients have a right to information and documented counselling is our only defence if complications occur. Nevertheless we need to acknowledge that it increases anxiety for both patient and clinician and this in itself may make fitting harder.

It is matter of national concern that in some areas access to intrauterine device fitting is limited, and we need to encourage the acquisition of a skill that can give a great deal of satisfaction and pride in a service that means a great deal to many of our patients. It would be a shame if medico-legal anxieties took the joy out of performing this and other practical procedures.

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Reference

Reply

I’m sure Dr Bacon in her letter 1 describes a problem that intrudes into all spheres of clinical practice, not just intrauterine device (IUD) fitting – namely the subtle effects that defensive concerns have on the doctor-patient interaction, frequently with results that are not in the patient’s interests. I would agree this is another important factor explaining the phenomenon I described in my original letter to the Journal, being only too aware of how this has slowly worsened during my 25 or so years of family planning practice.

Considering that a number of experienced practitioners obviously share my concerns about increasingly difficult IUD fitting, would there be any mileage with the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare setting up an advanced IUD certificate that would cover cervical dilatation, local anaesthesia, and so on? The need appears to be out there (we’re not all ex-MRCOG!) and experienced doctors are obviously working out the solutions but how easy is it for the more recently qualified to benefit from the results? More formal organisation of this aspect of training appears appropriate.

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September 2008

Title: MSc Sexual Health
Venue: Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, UK.
Details: Masters of Sexual Health programme has been designed to enable a range of professionals to develop critical thinking skills and proactive delivery within the broad context of sexual health. It is delivered by e-learning to suit near and distance learners. The programme can be taken part time over 2–5 years. Accreditation: Masters degree. Information: Louise Campbell (Programme Administrator), Nursing, Midwifery and Community Health, Glasgow Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow G4 0BA, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 141 331 8646. Fax: +44 (0) 141 331 8312.

20 September 2008

Title: North West Society of Sexual Medicine and Family Planning Autumn Meeting
Venue: Woodlands Conference Centre, Chorley, Lancashire, UK.
Details: Morning session: HPV vaccine programme and uptake; management of irregular bleeding with LARC; pharmacy provision of oral contraception. Afternoon session: interactive session on sexual assault. Accreditation: FSRH. Information: Mrs Linda Sloan, 5 Redhouse Lane, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 5RH, UK. E-mail: lindsa6007@btinternet.com.

3 October 2008

Title: Women’s Health Concern 19th Annual Symposium on Women’s Health
Venue: Royal Society of Medicine, London, UK.
Details: A day of interesting and informative lectures given by some eminent professors and consultants on topics including: a new concept in menopausal therapy; HRT and cardiovascular disease; Alerts for Ovarian Cancer; androgen therapy; new management of menorrhagia. Accreditation: FSRH. Information: Barbara Halstead, Women’s Health Concern, 4–6 Eaton Place, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2QZ, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1628 524009 (direct) or +44 (0) 1628 478473 (main office). Fax: +44 (0) 1628 487243. E-mail: bhalstead@womens-health-concern.org. Website: www.womens-health-concern.org.

29–30 October 2008

Title: Conference on ‘Respect & Responsibility’ and the Launch of the National Clinical Effectiveness Unit of the FSRH organized by Sandyford, Glasgow and the FSRH. Details: See display advertisement on page 203.

20–21 November 2008

Title: Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Current Choices Meeting
Venue: Royal College of Physicians, London, UK.
Details: See display advertisement on page 203.

22 November 2008

Title: Continuing Education in Reproductive & Sexual Health Annual Updating Day
Venue: London, UK.
Details: One-day Annual Updating Day suitable for all health professionals working in the field of sexual and reproductive health. Accreditation: FSRH applied for. Information: Sian Price, Training Administrator, Sexual & Reproductive Health Training Partnership, Southwalk PCT, St Giles Road, London SE5 7RN, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7771 3322. Fax: +44 (0) 20 7771 3338. E-mail: sprice@southwalkpct.nhs.uk.

24–26 November 2008

Title: Letter of Competence in Medical Education (Loc Med) Residential Course for Potential Instructing Doctors
Venue: London, UK.
Details: See display advertisement on page 204.