Provision of injectable contraceptives in Ethiopia through community-based reproductive health agents
Ndola Prata, Amanuel Gessessew, Alice Cartwright & Ashley Fraser

Objective To determine whether community-based health workers in a rural region of Ethiopia can provide injectable contraceptives to women with similar levels of safety, effectiveness and acceptability as health extension workers (HEWs).

Methods This was a prospective non-randomized community intervention trial designed to test the provision of injectable contraceptives by community-based reproductive health agents (CBRHAs). Effectiveness, safety, acceptability and continuation rates were the outcomes of interest. The outcomes observed when injectable contraceptives were administered by HEWs in health posts and when they were administered by CBRHAs were compared by means of χ² tests for association among categorical variables and t-tests for independent samples to determine differences between group means.

Findings A total of 1062 women participated in the study. Compared with health post clients, the clients of CBRHAs were, on average, slightly older, less likely to be married and less educated, and they had significantly more living children. Women seeking services from CBRHAs were also significantly more likely to be using injectable contraceptives for the first time; health post clients were more likely to have used them in the past. In addition, clients of CBRHAs were less likely to discontinue using injectable contraceptives over three injection cycles than health post clients.

Conclusion Receiving injectable contraceptives from CBRHAs proved as safe and acceptable to this sample of Ethiopian women as receiving them in health posts from HEWs. These findings add to the growing body of evidence supporting the development, introduction and scale up of programmes to train community-based health workers such as CBRHAs to safely administer injectable contraceptives.

Introduction
In many countries, human resources for health are either poorly distributed or in short supply. To address this critical shortage of health professionals, international health bodies and expert observers have advocated shifting specific health-care tasks from highly-trained medical staff to providers with minimal training, depending on the type of intervention. This systematic delegation of tasks to less skilled providers, formerly referred to as substitution, is not new. However, for such continued and expanded task shifting and sharing to be viable, these services must be delivered just as safely and effectively by less skilled providers as by medical staff.

Numerous factors, among them the availability of staff and commodities, contribute to the quality of the care available at basic health facilities. While several countries have experimented with shifting the distribution of short-term methods of family planning to community-based distributors or health volunteers, many unmet need for contraceptives remains. Shifting the task of providing longer-acting injectable contraceptives, such as depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA), to community workers can provide access to these methods to a larger number of women.

Community-based models of DMPA distribution have been successful in several developing country contexts. Most recently, studies conducted in Madagascar, Malawi and Uganda have demonstrated that community health workers who receive proper training in screening, injection technique and counselling can administer DMPA injections to women in rural areas just as safely as clinic-based providers and with comparable rates of acceptability and continuation. In numerous settings, DMPA has emerged as the preferred method of contraception primarily because it is effective, can be used privately, has a longer period of action than oral contraceptives or condoms and requires less frequent supply. In Ethiopia, DMPA is now the method of choice for over 70% of women using modern methods of contraception, compared with almost no utilization as recently as 1990. However, women in rural Ethiopia continue to have a low rate of contraceptive use (11%) and a high unmet need (36%).

Like many developing countries, Ethiopia has a shortage of highly-skilled health-care providers. In 2003, the Government of Ethiopia launched the Health Extension Programme to develop a body of salaried basic-level health-care providers – health extension workers (HEWs) – who could increase the availability and coverage of basic health services for Ethiopia’s large rural population. While HEWs have been an innovative addition to the Ethiopian health sector, their ability to conduct community outreach varies depending on the time demanded by the wide range of health interventions for which they are responsible. Another group of workers composed of volunteers known as community-based reproductive health agents (CBRHAs) was initially mobilized to provide basic family planning services and referrals, although they have acquired more responsibilities in the community and often support the activities of the HEWs. However, CBRHAs are lay health workers and are thus only allowed to distribute oral contraceptives and condoms, for which they can receive a small commission. To date, CBRHAs are not...
Authorized to administer DMPA because it requires an intramuscular injection. As previous research has demonstrated, contraceptive distribution by community health workers such as CBRHAs can increase the use of contraceptives in populations living beyond the reach of health facilities, as well as eliminate an additional referral from CBRHAs to HEWs before women can begin using their method of choice.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Health’s National Reproductive Health Strategy 2006–2015 states as a goal to “delegate to the lowest service delivery level possible, the provision of all family planning methods, especially long-term and permanent methods, without compromising safety or quality of care.” CBRHAs are an integral part of attempts to provide community education and modern contraceptives to women in rural communities. However, most of their outreach activities are supported by nongovernmental organizations and private sector funds and are limited to delivering oral contraceptives and condoms. HEWs can provide these methods, as well as injectable contraceptives, and training is currently under way to also allow them to provide contraceptive implants. Additional methods, such as intrauterine devices and sterilization, are provided by clinical officers at health centres or hospitals.

The objective of this study was to determine if, with appropriate training, CBRHAs can administer injectable contraceptives to women in a rural region of Ethiopia with the same effectiveness, safety and acceptability as HEWs.

Setting and intervention

This project took place in Tigray region, Ethiopia, as a collaboration between the Bixby Center at the University of California at Berkeley and the Tigray Regional Health Bureau. Tigray’s sizable rural population (80% of the region’s 4.3 million people), among other factors, contributes to the persistence of disparities in the use of family planning methods. Almost a quarter (24%) of the rural women in Tigray report an unmet need for family planning to limit or space their pregnancies and 75% of the women in Tigray who intend to use contraception in the future want to use injectables. The use of community-based health workers such as CBRHAs to distribute injectable contraceptives can put DMPA within reach of women who are not currently accessing modern methods of contraception or who are dissatisfied with condoms or oral contraceptive pills.

As of 2009, Tigray had deployed 1200 HEWs to health posts (enough to staff 80% of the targeted positions). As a result of investment by the government and by international and local implementing organizations, almost 1500 CBRHAs are currently active in Tigray.

Four village sites (tabias) in each of two districts (woredas) of the region (Kola Tembien and Tanqua Abergel) were included for participation, for a total of eight intervention sites. Before the start of research activities, investigators contacted community leaders and key community persons and explained the objectives of the study. Since the provision of injectable contraceptives was a new service being offered by CBRHAs, these leaders were instrumental in diffusing information about the project throughout their communities. The study included 30 CBRHAs and 15 HEWs from the target areas. There were approximately four CBRHAs and two HEWs per tabia.

While HEWs were already authorized to provide DMPA before the intervention, it was important to standardize the training received by both arms of providers to ensure comparability. A 10-day training addressed topics related to family planning methods, study protocol, screening requirements for the exclusion of participants, injection administration, infection prevention and reporting procedures. CBRHAs and HEWs who successfully completed the classroom training moved on to a two-stage clinic-based practical training in which safe injection technique was emphasized.

The DMPA was supplied specifically for the project and purchased from DKT-International (UK), DKT-Indonesia (Asia), DKT-World (worldwide) and DKT-Ethiopia (local), as well as 3-month intramuscular DMPA product in Ethiopia. The product comes in 1-ml vials, that markets and distributes a 3-month standard dose to be administered every three months. For a single administration, a 2-ml syringe with a needle measuring 0.8 x 40 mm was used.

Methods

This was a prospective non-randomized community intervention trial conducted in 2008 and 2009. Women self-selected into different arms of the study based on the type of provider they visited for family planning services. Safety, acceptability, effectiveness and continuation rates were the outcomes of interest. The outcome rates in participants who received DMPA from CBRHAs were compared with the outcome rates in participants who received DMPA from HEWs. We based the sample size of 1000 women on the need to test for non-inferiority of the services provided by CBRHAs. We assumed a continuation rate of 65% after injection among HEW clients and a continuation rate of at least 55% in the CBRHA group (for a maximum difference of 10% between arms) as being equivalent. We also assumed a loss to follow-up of 10%, a design effect of 2.0 and similar recruitment rates among all 8 villages.

All women of reproductive age who approached a participating provider to request a contraceptive method and who wished to use DMPA were recruited for the study. Participation was voluntary. After obtaining consent, the CBRHA or HEW screened each participant to see if she was eligible for contraceptive use based on current WHO recommendations. Consistent with their usual practice, both types of providers referred clients who were medically ineligible to the nearest health facility. No compensation was given to participants, but during the study DMPA was given free of charge. Both types of providers explained to the participants that in the private sector DMPA can normally be purchased for a nominal fee.

We used three survey instruments over the course of the project: an enrolment questionnaire, a 13-week follow-up questionnaire and a 6-month follow-up questionnaire. Fig. 1 shows the timing of the injections and the interview schedule for the three consecutive injections.

The data collected included sociodemographic characteristics, satisfaction with DMPA as a method, satisfaction with the provider, quality of the service provided, knowledge and experience of side-effects, reasons for discontinuing the injections, willingness to pay for injectables and preferred point of care for DMPA administration.

For the data analysis we used SPSS version 15.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, United States of America). Differences in responses between the two client groups were assessed with χ² tests for association among categorical variables and t-tests for independent samples to determine differences between group means. Statistical significance was set at P < 0.05.
Ethical approval was obtained from the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects at the University of California at Berkeley and from the Tigray Regional Health Bureau in Ethiopia. This intervention was registered with ClinicalTrials.gov with the identifier NCT01288274.

Results

A total of 1062 women participated in this study, including 662 who were receiving services from CBRHAs. Fig. 2 shows the number who enrolled, who continued the injections and who were lost to follow-up.

Table 1 shows the characteristics of CBRHA and HEW clients. CBRHA clients were, on average, slightly older, less likely to be married and less educated than HEW clients, and they had significantly more living children. In addition, women seeking services from CBRHAs were significantly more likely to be using DMPA for the first time.

Rates of previous use of modern contraception were similar between the two groups; 41% of the women in both groups reported that they had never used a modern contraceptive method before this project (Fig. 3). However, CBRHA clients were significantly less likely to have used DMPA in the past than HEW clients (34% versus 44%, respectively). At enrolment, providers asked women to cite their main reasons for choosing DMPA. Significantly more HEW clients mentioned convenience, although the majority of CBRHA clients also gave this response (Fig. 4). In this sample, the husband’s permission, period of action and privacy were less influential in women’s choice to use DMPA.

HEW clients were more likely to discontinue using DMPA over the course of the project, particularly between the 13th week and the 6th month (Table 2). While approximately 80% of clients of both types of providers received their second injection, the number who did so among CBRHA clients was slightly but significantly higher. By the time the 13-week follow-up questionnaire was administered, 9% of HEW clients had discontinued the injections, compared with only 1% of CBRHA clients. Similarly, a larger proportion of CBRHA clients than HEW clients received the third injection (79% versus 62%, respectively). Discontinuation rates after the 13-week follow-up questionnaire continued to be higher among HEW clients, as 4% failed to receive the third injection compared with 2% of CBRHA clients. One pregnancy was reported in the 6-month follow-up questionnaire, although the woman in question had discontinued DMPA after her second injection. Women gave “trying to get pregnant” as the most common reason for discontinuing the injections, and the majority of women who discontinued DMPA in favour of another method reported having switched to implants (data not shown).

Women receiving injections from CBRHAs were less likely to report side-effects resulting from the DMPA after their second injection (Fig. 5). However, by the 6-month interview, differences in reported side-effects between CBRHA and HEW clients were no longer noted. Reactions at the injection site were very few. The only significant difference was reported at the 13-week follow-up, when
more CBRHA clients than HEW clients reported induration at the injection site (2.1% versus 0.5%, respectively). This difference had disappeared by the third follow-up, at which point less than 1.5% of the women reported any problems (data not shown).

As shown in Table 3, the women in both study arms were highly satisfied with DMPA as a method and with their provider. CBRHAs provided care similar in quality to the care provided by HEWs. The only differences reported were that CBRHAs were less likely than HEWs to give written appointment reminders and significantly more likely to offer condoms in addition to DMPA. Differences between the two groups were noted in the type of knowledge about potential side-effects that the women retained. By the 6-month follow-up survey, CBRHA clients could recall significantly more of the side-effects that the CBRHAs had explained to them during DMPA consultations. At the 13-week follow-up survey HEW clients could name significantly more of the adverse events for which they were told to visit a health centre, although the difference had almost disappeared by the 6-month follow-up survey.

In both follow-up surveys CBRHA clients were overwhelmingly in favour of receiving their injections at home or in the home of the CBRHA (Table 4). A key finding was that after they received their third injection, 52% of the HEW clients expressed the desire to be given their injections at home. In this sample the preference for receiving injections at home may have been related to the fact that almost half of the women in both study arms reported having difficulty in getting to a health facility for family planning.

### Discussion

Our findings reflect the extent to which community health workers such as CBRHAs can provide access to injectable contraceptives at the community level. The findings are consistent with results from studies in which community health workers have safely and effectively administered DMPA in Madagascar, Malawi and Uganda. In this study in Tigray, CBRHAs provided DMPA to more first-time users of the method, which underscores the role of these community health workers in expanding access to family planning methods other than condoms and the pill. Clients of CBRHAs were also less likely to discontinue the injections after three cycles, perhaps because having CBRHAs come to their “doorstep” makes it unnecessary for women to visit health posts and facilitates their adherence to the DMPA injection schedule. Overall, differences in the reported...
quality of service provision were very few. Both groups of women were able to recall the side-effects of DMPA and the problems requiring medical attention. The fact that a slightly larger number of CBRHA clients reported induration at the site of the first injections raises the need to periodically monitor CBRHAs and offer them refresher training to ensure that they continue to practice proper injection technique. Overall, CBRHAs delivered DMPA to women very safely and with high acceptability, with very few problems at the injection site.

Women cited convenience, husband’s consent and the product’s length of action as the key reasons for using DMPA. Though privacy was cited less frequently, community-based interventions allow women quick and confidential access to methods such as DMPA. The nature of the method and its delivery mechanism are appealing to women who may not want to openly use one of the short-term contraceptive methods more commonly available.

As expected, the overwhelming majority of women who chose CBRHAs as their providers reported wanting to receive DMPA injections at home, yet at both follow-up surveys around half of HEW clients said that they would choose this option as well if they could. Unfortunately, we did not gather in-depth qualitative information from women about why they chose to receive DMPA from CBRHAs rather than HEWs. However, almost half of the women in the sample reported difficulty in getting to a facility for family planning purposes and since CBRHAs administered DMPA injections competently and to the satisfaction of their clients, the provision of injectable contraceptives in women’s households by CBRHAs can satisfy women’s preferences in terms of location and improve their adherence to the injection schedule.

In 2009, a WHO technical consultation reviewed evidence on the community-based provision of injectable contraceptives from 16 projects (including the present study) in nine countries.\textsuperscript{31} The conclusions were that with adequate support and skills training, community health workers can administer injectable contraceptives as safely and effectively as facility-based providers, and that continuation and satisfaction rates are high when the providers are community health workers. Including these workers in a distribution model for family planning can increase the contraceptive options available and their accessibility, especially in populations with limited access to facilities and to a variety of methods.

As a result of the demonstration projects mentioned above, Uganda has moved forward with a national policy to allow community health workers to provide injectable contraceptives and several countries, including Afghanistan, Madagascar and Malawi, are taking steps in that direction. However, such a change in policy depends on governments’ ability to identify a source of funding for the training and monitoring of the workers. In Uganda, for example, changing policy has taken approximately five years, despite research showing that community health workers were highly capable of providing DMPA.\textsuperscript{31} As the Health Extension Programme has been scaled up in Ethiopia, the Ministry of Health is currently considering CBRHAs as merely health promotion agents. However, HEWs have not been able to consistently provide as much community outreach as expected given that most of their time is spent providing clinical care, so the role of CBRHAs may be reviewed in the future.

The demand for injectable contraceptives in Ethiopia has been amply documented and both the results of this study and the technical review of the evidence highlight the need for plans to introduce, sustain, and scale up the

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**Table 2. Proportion of women who did and did not receive a second or third injection of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate, by provider type, Ethiopia, 2008–2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continuation</th>
<th>2nd injection</th>
<th>3rd injection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HEW clients</td>
<td>CBRHA clients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received injection (%)</td>
<td>(n= 440) (n=622)</td>
<td>(n= 440) (n=622)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontinued injections (%)</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CBRHA, community-based reproductive health agent; HEW, health extension worker.

Proportions do not add up to 100 due to loss to follow up.

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**Fig. 5. Reported side-effects following second and third injections of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate, Ethiopia, 2008–2009**

CBRHA, community-based reproductive health agent; HEW, health extension worker; *P < 0.05.
Table 3. Care received by surveyed women due to injection of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) from health extension workers (HEWs) and by community-based reproductive health agents (CBRHAs), Ethiopia, 2008–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>13 week questionnaire</th>
<th>6 month questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HEW clients (%)</td>
<td>CBRHA clients (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n = 398)</td>
<td>(n = 526)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With DMPA</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>99.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With provider</td>
<td>97.6</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave written appointment reminder</td>
<td>98.9</td>
<td>92.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explained potential side-effects</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>98.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussed STI/HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>95.9</td>
<td>95.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explained that DMPA does not protect against HIV</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>97.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offered condoms in addition</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>75.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naming of side-effects from DMPA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular bleeding</td>
<td>35.9</td>
<td>34.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy bleeding</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotting</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenorrhoea</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight gain</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irritability</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair loss</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naming of side-effects requiring visit to health centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe headache</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very heavy bleeding</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>53.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest pain</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Contraceptive methods discussed by provider with surveyed women due to receive injection of depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) and preferred point of service, by provider type, Ethiopia, 2008–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>13 week questionnaire</th>
<th>6 month questionnaire</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HEW clients (%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n = 398)</td>
<td>(n = 526)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other family planning methods discussed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condoms</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCP</td>
<td>85.6</td>
<td>82.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implants</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUD</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterilization</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred point of service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health post</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client’s home</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBRHA’s home</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>11.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty getting to clinic for family planning</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>48.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; STI, sexually-transmitted infection.

CBRHA, community-based reproductive health agent; HEW, health extension worker; IUD, intrauterine device; OCP, oral contraceptive pill.
administration of DMPA by CBRHAs in Ethiopia. Admittedly, training large numbers of these workers can impose a heavy financial burden on health systems with few resources. Innovative public–private partnership models could help defray some of the costs of training and monitoring, generate income for community health workers and increase women’s access to modern contraceptive methods.

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The authors thank the Tigray Regional Health Bureau, especially Gebre Ab Barnabas and the late Araya Kahsu Abraha; Martine Holston and Deborah Karasek; project trainers; woreda heads; project coordinators and supervisors, and participating HEWs and CBRHAs. They also thank all the women who have participated in this study.

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Competing interests: None declared.

ملخص
إعطاء موانع الحمل القابلة للحقن في أثيوبيا عن طريق الموظفين في الصحة الإنجابية المجتمعية المرتكز

غرض تحديد قدرة العاملين الصحيين المجتمعيين في المناطق الريفية في أثيوبيا على تقديم موانع الحمل القابلة للحقن للنساء بنفس مستويات الفعالية والأمان والمقبولية للعاملين على امتداد المواقع الصحية. 

الطريقة وضعت هذه التجربة الاستقصائية لتدخلات المجتمع غير المختارة عشوائياً لاختبار تقديم موانع الحمل القابلة للحقن من قبل الموظفين في الصحة الإنجابية المجتمعية المرتكز. وشملت التحليلات ذات الاهتمام على معدلات الفعالية، والسلامة، والمقبولية، واستمرار المواقع الصحية. وقد لوحظت النتائج عند اختبارات عدوية توضيح النتائج عند متوسطات المتغيرات، واختبارات χ² للاختلاف بين المجموعات، واختبار 2*t لعينات التقلبات المستقلة للنظرية بين المتغيرات. 

النتائج المتغيرات قد عدلت هذه النتائج إلى كمية البيانات المستخدمة في الدراسة. وتوصي هذا النتاج تطوير برامج تدريب العاملين الصحيين المجتمعيين مثل الموظفين في الصحة الإنجابية المجتمعية المرتكز على إعطاء موانع الحمل القابلة للحقن في المناطق الإدارية في إثيوبيا. 

الامتثال جزء من استجابة المرأة في الموافقة عن امتثال بما في ذلك التضمان الفعال للوسائل التي توفرها. 

استنتاج
إعطاء موانع الحمل القابلة للحقن في أثيوبيا عن طريق الموظفين في الصحة الإنجابية المجتمعية المرتكز قد أثبت أنه آمن، ومقبول. ويعتبر هذا النتاج باعثاً على إنشاء وتوضيح نطاق تطبيق مشاريع التدريب في المناطق الإدارية في إثيوبيا. 

Résumé
Fourniture de contraceptifs injectables en Éthiopie par le biais des agents communautaires de santé reproductive

Objectif Déterminer si le personnel soignant communautaire d’une région rurale d’Éthiopie peut fournir des contraceptifs injectables aux femmes avec des niveaux de sécurité, d’efficacité et d’acceptabilité similaires à ceux des agents de vulgarisation sanitaire (AVS).

Méthodes Il s’agissait d’un essai d’intervention communautaire prospectif non randomisé, conçu pour tester la fourniture de contraceptifs injectables...
Определить, могут ли общинные медицинские
интегрители, с целью определения различий между группам.

Результаты
Средний возраст женщин, обращающих в амбулатории за
использованием контрацептивов, был несколько старше,
чем у женщин, обращающихся за помощью в медицинских
учреждениях. Более того, женщины, обращающиеся за
услугами амбулатории, имели более высокий уровень образования
и более высокую вероятность нахождения в браке. Кроме
того, женщин, обращающихся в амбулатории, было
ранее использованы контрацептивы, в то время как
женщины, обращающиеся в медицинские учреждения,
не использовали контрацептивы ранее.

Резюме
Распространение инъекционных противозачаточных средств работниками службы санитарного
просвещения на уровне общины в Эфиопии

Цель
Определить, могут ли общинные медицинские
работники обеспечивать женщин контрацептивами
на том же уровне безопасности, эффективности и приемлемости, что и
работники службы санитарного просвещения (ССП).

Методы
Описывается проведенное на уровне общины
проспективное нерандомизированное интервенционное
испытание, планом которого предусматривалась
проверка результатов распространения инъекционных
контрацептивов общинными агентами по репродуктивному
здоровью (ОАПОРЗ). Результатами, представленными
интерес, были: эффективность, безопасность и приемлемость
dанной услуги, а также доля лиц, продолжающих eю
пользоваться. Наблюдаемые результаты распространения
инъекционных противозачаточных средств работниками
ССП, занимающимися должности медицинского персонала,
и ОАПОРЗ сравнивались со средними значениями χ²-
тестов по выявлению корреляции между категориальными
переменными и χ²-тестов для независимых выборок с целью
определения различий между средними значениями по
группам.

Результаты
Всего в исследовании приняли участие 1062
женщины. По сравнению с посетителями медпунктов,
клиенты ОАПОРЗ были меньше, но старше, имели
меньшую вероятность нахождения в браке, более
низкий уровень образования и значительно больше живых
детей. Кроме того, женщины, обращающиеся к услугам
ОАПОРЗ, имели более высокую вероятность
пользоваться контрацептивами, в то время как
женщины, обращающиеся в медицинские учреждения,
не использовали контрацептивы ранее. Помимо этого,
у клиентов ОАПОРЗ вероятность прекращения использования
инъекционными контрацептивами была
дольше в клинических
предоставлении.

Вывод
Для данной выборки эфиопских женщин получение
инъекционных противозачаточных средств у ОАПОРЗ
и у работников ССП в медпунктах оказалось одинаково
безопасным и приемлемым. Эти результаты дополняют
все более растущий объем данных, свидетельствующих в
пользу разработки, внедрения и широкого развития
программ подготовки медработников типа ОАПОРЗ
на уровне общины для безопасного распространения
инъекционных противозачаточных средств.
en los centros de salud de los HEW. Estos resultados se añadieron al conjunto cada vez más amplio de evidencias que apoyan el desarrollo, la introducción y la ampliación de programas de formación de los trabajadores sanitarios comunitarios, como los CBHRA, para administrar contraceptivos inyectables con seguridad.

References