Abstract: Background: One of the main tasks of health providers, like midwives, is to protect and promote health of women and families through the optimized implementation of family planning programs. Emergency contraception is an accessible and acceptable method for most women. Its proper use could prevent three quarters of unwanted pregnancies.

Methods: This was a descriptive – correlation study in which 140 health providers and one client of each selected provider who was using contraceptive pills for at least six months were studied in 52 randomly selected health centers/posts in Tabriz in 2010. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data from the providers, while the questionnaire for the clients was filled up by face-to-face interview. Data were analyzed by chi square and Pearson correlation tests using SPSS-13.

Result: The mean score of providers’ knowledge and attitudes were 69.4 ± 11.8 and 70.1 ± 12.8, respectively (possible score rang was 0-100). The providers’ knowledge level was high only in 35% (score>75). High majority (95.7%) had positive attitudes. There was a significant relation between the providers’ and users’ knowledge in three of the 14 statements (the most common side effect of the method, changes in menstruation time, no protective effect on subsequent unprotected sex). As well, there was significant relation between the providers’ and users’ attitudes in tow of the four investigated areas (effect on inducing abortion, effect on correct use of the more effective methods). Overall, there was no significant relation neither between the providers’ and users’ knowledge nor between their attitudes scores (p> 0.05).

Conclusion: The provider’s knowledge is insufficient, and there is no significant relation between the providers’ and users’ knowledge and attitude. Thus, in addition to need for promoting the providers’ knowledge, the other barriers should also be recognized and removed in order to promote using this method.

Keyword: knowledge, attitude, emergency contraception, pill user, provider

Presentation: Poster