

Attitudes and Beliefs about Emergency Contraception in Patients at MUSC Family Medicine Clinics.

John W Campbell MD, and Stephen C Busby MD

Introduction: Emergency Contraception's (EC) major mechanisms of action are preventing ovulation, fertilization, or implantation of an embryo. The use of EC is controversial in many settings, and patient perception of EC's mechanisms is poorly studied. We will evaluate patients' understanding of pregnancy and EC's mechanisms.

Methods: A survey was developed and pilot tested by office staff for appropriate reading level and ability to analyze results. The survey collected demographic information, and asked questions about understanding of pregnancy and EC. Patients, ages 18-50 years, visiting our office were asked to complete the survey during a period of 4-8 weeks. Surveys will be entered into an electronic database with no patient identifiers for later analysis.

Results: Attitudes and beliefs regarding EC among the patient population surveyed will be presented. Data will be analyzed by demographic variables to identify any statistical differences.

Discussion: From the results, we hope to see if the mechanism of action of EC is a significant issue for patients surveyed.