

Discontinuation of Reversible Long-Acting Contraceptive and Associated Factors among Female Users in Health Facilities of Hawassa City, Southern Ethiopia: Cross-Sectional Study

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Belay Amare Abebe¹
Nega Assefa¹ ²
Bezatu Mengistie¹ ²

¹Department of Midwifery, College Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Hawassa, Hawassa, Ethiopia; ²School of Public Health, College of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Haramaya, Harar, Ethiopia

Background: Despite improvement in the availability and use of reversible long-acting contraception, discontinuation is becoming a public health concern. A significant proportion of women discontinuing the service before its due date, which is of concern in the health system with regard to its consequences, may lead to a program failure. In addition, there is a paucity of information on discontinuation of reversible long-acting contraceptives and associated factors in the study area. Therefore, this study aimed to assess discontinuation of reversible long-acting contraceptives and associated factors among female users in health facilities of Hawassa city, southern Ethiopia, 2019.

Methods: Institution-based cross-sectional design was used. Systematic sampling was used to select study participants. Women who were users of long-acting contraceptives and had come to selected health facilities for method-related reasons were included in the study. Data collectors approached and recruited participants before they contacted their care providers. Data were collected from study subjects using a pretested, structured questionnaire through face-to-face interviews after participants had contacted care providers. Results are presented using the crude and adjusted ORs with corresponding 95% CIs.

Results: The overall proportion of reversible long-acting contraceptive discontinuation was 56.6% (95% CI 52.30%, 61.10%). Maternal education at primary level (AOR 2.33, 95% CI 1.15–4.74), lack of counseling (AOR 2.50, 95% CI 1.01–6.18), side effects (AOR 2.10, 95% CI 1.31–3.34), and desire to be pregnant (AOR 2.22; 95% CI 1.50–3.30) were the major factors in discontinuation.

Conclusion: In this study, the overall proportion of discontinuation of reversible long-acting contraceptives was high. Maternal education at primary level, lack of counseling, side effects, and desire to be pregnant were the key factors associated with discontinuation of the contraceptives. Health professionals should provide counseling on the side effects before insertion.

Keywords: factors, discontinuation, reversible long-acting contraceptives

Background

Family planning is a process that usually involves a discussion between a woman, a man, and a trained family-planning service provider focusing on family health and a couple's desire either to limit or space their family size.¹ Contraceptive discontinuation is the removal of such methods by women for any reason.² Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) comprises methods of birth control that provide effective

Correspondence: Belay Amare Abebe
PO Box 1560
Tel +251-91-014-2197
Email gideteb60@gmail.com

contraception for longer periods without requiring user action, and includes intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants.^{2,3} IUDs were first used at the beginning of the 20th century.^{2,3} The implants are also long-acting and extremely effective at preventing pregnancy, with a clinical failure rate <1%.¹⁹

Discontinuation of effective methods of contraception is a universal problem, although rates vary widely by population and country.⁸ Globally, an estimated 33 million accidental pregnancies are reported to occur among women using either traditional or modern contraceptive methods.^{8,24} From evidence of 60 demographic and health surveys conducted on causes and consequences of contraceptive discontinuation, an average of 38% of women discontinued the use of reversible by the 12th month and 64% by the 36th month in the 19 countries covered. Twelve-month discontinuation for IUDs was 13%.²⁴

According to a report based on developing countries, 13.1% of IUD users discontinued use during the first 12 months, 26.3% within 24 months, and 36.7% within 3 years of use.^{2,3} Discontinuation of IUDs within the first 12 months ranges from 13% to 47%, and discontinuation of Implanon within the first year ranges from 2% in Nigeria to 23% in the UK.^{2,3} Contraceptive discontinuation contributes to unplanned pregnancy, unwanted births, and termination of pregnancy, which poses a risk to women's health.^{7,21} Every year, about a third of the world's 182 million pregnancies are unplanned.^{7,21} Unplanned pregnancy results in larger families and ultimately contributes to higher overall fertility rates, which may result in social, economic, and physical health disabilities.^{18,23}

Only 8% of married women in Ethiopia use implants and 2% IUDs.^{12,25} Apart from low utilization, premature removal is common for unknown reasons. In addition, there is a paucity of information on discontinuation and factors associated with LARC use in the study area and in the country at large. Therefore, this study aimed to assess discontinuation of LARC and associated factors among LARC users in health facilities of Hawassa city, southern Ethiopia, from March 1 to April 1, 2019.

The findings of this study will enhance the planning and decision-making capacity of health professionals to seek possible solutions to community problems in collaboration with the stakeholders concerned. In addition, the findings will help local program managers, planners, and other concerned organizations working in the field of family planning and maternal health to plan new strategies

and prepare training programs based on the identified factors to enhance retention of utilization in the community. Finally, this study will provide baseline data for other researchers to undertake future study in the field.

Conceptual framework (Figure 1)

Methods

This was an institution-based cross-sectional study. The study setting was Hawassa, capital of the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, and Sidama Zone, located 275 km south of the capital of Ethiopia — Addis Ababa. Hawassa's city administration is subdivided into eight subcities, of which seven are urban with 21 kebeles and one periurban with 12 kebeles, with a total population of 387,087 in 2017.¹¹ The study was conducted at nine health facilities: Hawassa University Referral Hospital (HURH), Adare General Hospital, the Hawassa Family Guidance Association, Marie Stopes International clinic, Millennium health center (HC), Alamura HC, Adare HC, Tulla HC, and Tilite HC of Hawassa, southern Ethiopia, from March 1 to April 1, 2019.

Participants

The source population was all reproductive-age women (15–49 years) who were current users of LARC in all health institutions of Hawassa. The study population comprised all reproductive-age women who were current users of LARC and had come to the selected health institutions for reasons related to contraceptive methods during the actual data-collection period.

Variables

The dependent variable was discontinuation of LARC (yes/no), and independent variables were sociodemographic characteristics (age, marital status, religion, occupation, and education), obstetric factors (number of children, parity, and abortion), and method-related factors (side effects, past contraceptive utilization, desire for pregnancy, follow-up, and counseling).

Eligibility Criteria, Sample Size, and Objectives

The inclusion criterion was current users of LARC who had come to the selected institutions for any reason related to LARC during the data-collection period. The exclusion criterion was inability to communicate and respond, eg, due to hearing loss. To determine the sample size for this study, the outcome variable and various factors significantly associated with the outcome variable were

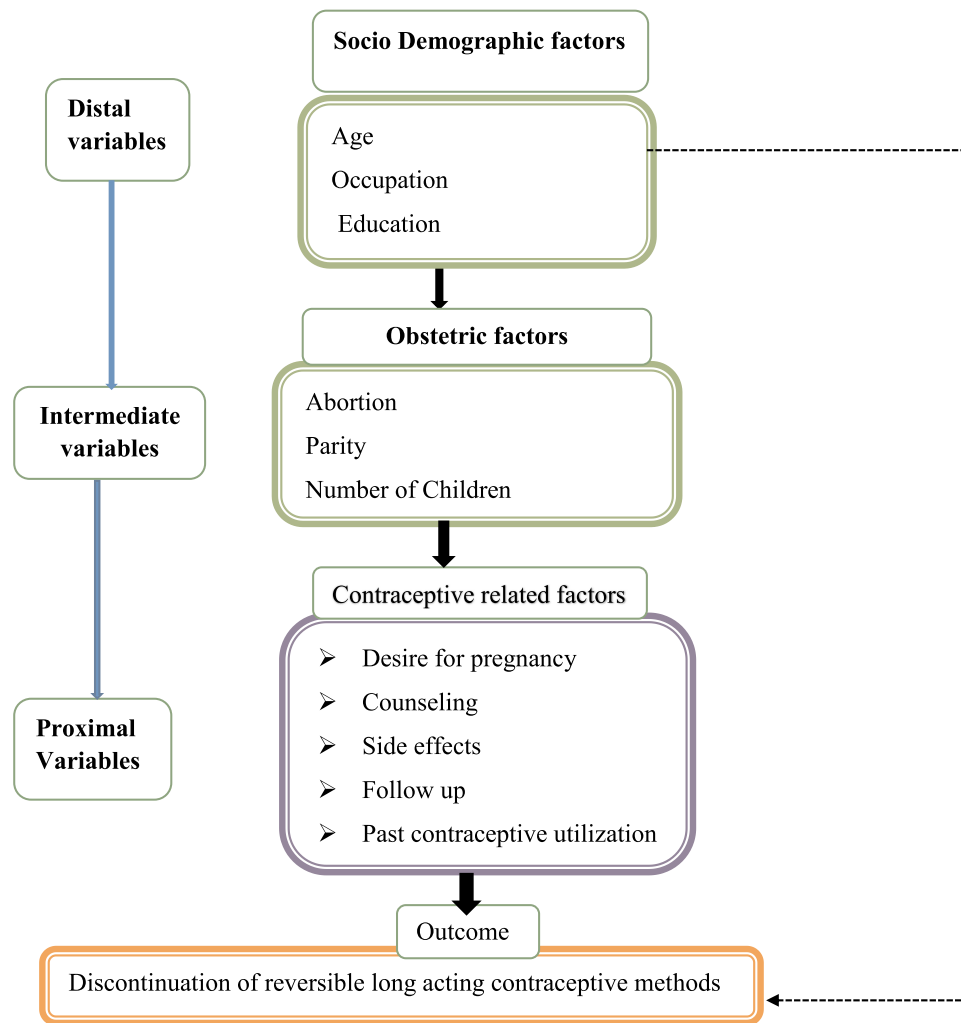


Figure 1 Conceptual framework for the study developed by the principal investigator.

considered. Accordingly, for the first and second specific objectives, the sample size was calculated separately and the larger one adopted for use in this study.

Specific objective 1 concerned the magnitude of discontinuation of LARC. The sample size was calculated by using a single population–proportion formula:

$$n = \frac{(z_{\alpha/2})^2 \times p(1 - p)}{d^2}$$

where n is the minimum sample size required, p the expected proportion of discontinued mothers, $z=1.96$ (95% CI) and $d=0.05$ the margin of error between the sample and the population. For this study $p=50\%$, because there was no published study in line with this title. Applying the formula by substituting these values into the equation gives 384. With the addition of a 10% non-response rate, the final sample size became 422 for the first

specific objective. Specific objective 2 concerned factors associated with discontinuation of LARC. The sample size of the second specific objective of this study was determined by considering factors that were significantly associated with the outcome variable, with a two-sided confidence level of 95%, margin of error 5%, power 80%, and ratio of exposed to unexposed 1:1 using Epi Info version 7.

Sampling Technique/Procedure

Both hospitals (ie, HURH and Adare General Hospital), five HCs, (ie Millennium, Adare, Tilite, Tulla, and Alamura) and two NGO clinics (ie, Hawassa Family Guidance Association and Hawassa Marie Stopes International) were randomly selected for this study. In order to ensure a proportionate allocation of the total sample size determined, average 6-month client flows of

each selected health institution were considered prior to the start of data collection. The information obtained from the 6-months enrollment record (June–December 2018) from the family-planning registry books showed that a total of 4,510 women had used LARCs within 6 months in the selected institutions.

As the result, the average 6-month client flow obtained from registration books of HURH, Adare General Hospital, Hawassa Family Guidance Association, Marie Stopes International, Millinium HC, Alamura HC, Adare HC, Tulla HC, and Tilite HC was 600, 660, 640, 600, 410, 480, 400, 460, and 250 respectively. The sample was allocated proportionally to each selected institution. Data collectors approached and recruited LARC users who had come to the selected clinics for contraceptive-related reasons. The total sample-size requirement was met by the systematic sampling of daily case load (ie, k th value for all ranges: 1.66–1.72). Every second woman was included in the sample until the total sample size for this study had been obtained in all selected health facilities (Figure 2). LARC discontinuation was regarded as cumulative probability of stopping use of contraception by a specific duration, while early Implanon discontinuation referred to removal of Implanon by health professionals before 2.5 years of utilization.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data entry was done using Epi Data version 3.1 and then exported to SPSS version 22 for analysis. Bivariate analysis was performed to reveal the association of each variable with LARC discontinuation at $p < 0.25$. Multicollinearity tests were carried out to check linear correlations among independent variables. The Hosmer–Lemeshow goodness-of-fit test was used to check model fitness. Based on the findings of bivariate analysis, variables with $p < 0.25$ were entered into multivariate logistic regression analysis with a 95% confidence level and 5% significance level. In multivariate logistic regression

analysis, variables at AOR with 95% CI and $p < 0.05$ were considered as statistically significant.

Results

Sociodemographic Characteristics

A total of 442 women responded to the questionnaire, for a response rate of 100%. The age of the study participants was 19–45 years, with mean 27.2 ± 4.6 years. Table 2 shows that 201 (45.5%) of the total respondents were aged 25–29. The majority of participants, 431 (97.5%), were married, and about 267 (60.4%) were Protestant Christians, followed by Orthodox Christians — 131 (29.6%, Table 2).

Obstetric-Related Characteristics

Obstetric history was one of the factors evaluated in the study. In sum, 236 (53.4%) respondents had given birth one to two times 177 (40.0%) more than three times. Of those who had given birth, 263 (59.5%) had one to two children alive and 130 (29.4%) three to four children alive. Among the participants, 142 (32.1%) women had a history of abortion and 283 (64%) desired another pregnancy. Of those who desired another pregnancy, 106 (37.5%) and 177 (62.5%) women desired to become pregnant within 2 and after 2 years, respectively (Table 3).

Contraceptive-Related Characteristics

Of all participants, 263 (59.5%), 91 (20.6%), and 88 (19.9%) were Implanon, IUCD, and Jadelle users, respectively. A total of 301 (68.1%) had used contraceptives before the LARC they were using during the study period. Of these, 233 (77.4%) had used injectables followed by oral contraceptive pills 118 (39.2%). Of all participants, 379 (85.31%) got the LARC insertion from government institutions, while 310 (70.1%) had chosen the contraceptives on their own. This might have been as a result of good awareness among participants of LARC and/or pressure from health providers to use it. From reasons for

Table 1 Sample-Size Determination for Magnitude and Associated Factors of LARC Discontinuation

	Exposed Outcome, %	Unexposed Outcome, %	Sample Size	Reference
Counseling	20 (counseled)	9.6 (not counseled)	402	[6]
Removal due to side effects	75.6 (side effect faced)	60.2 (side effect not faced)	312	[16]
Follow-up	35.9 (had follow-up)	15.76 (had no follow-up)	166	[22]

Notes: Calculated sample size of the second objective was larger than that of the first objective. By adding a 10% nonresponse rate, $n = 402 \times 0.1 + 402 = 442$, the final sample size.

Six months' enrollment in Health institutions of Hawassa city administration in both public hospitals, five HCs and two NGO clinics from family planning registration book, for sample selection (June–December/2018).

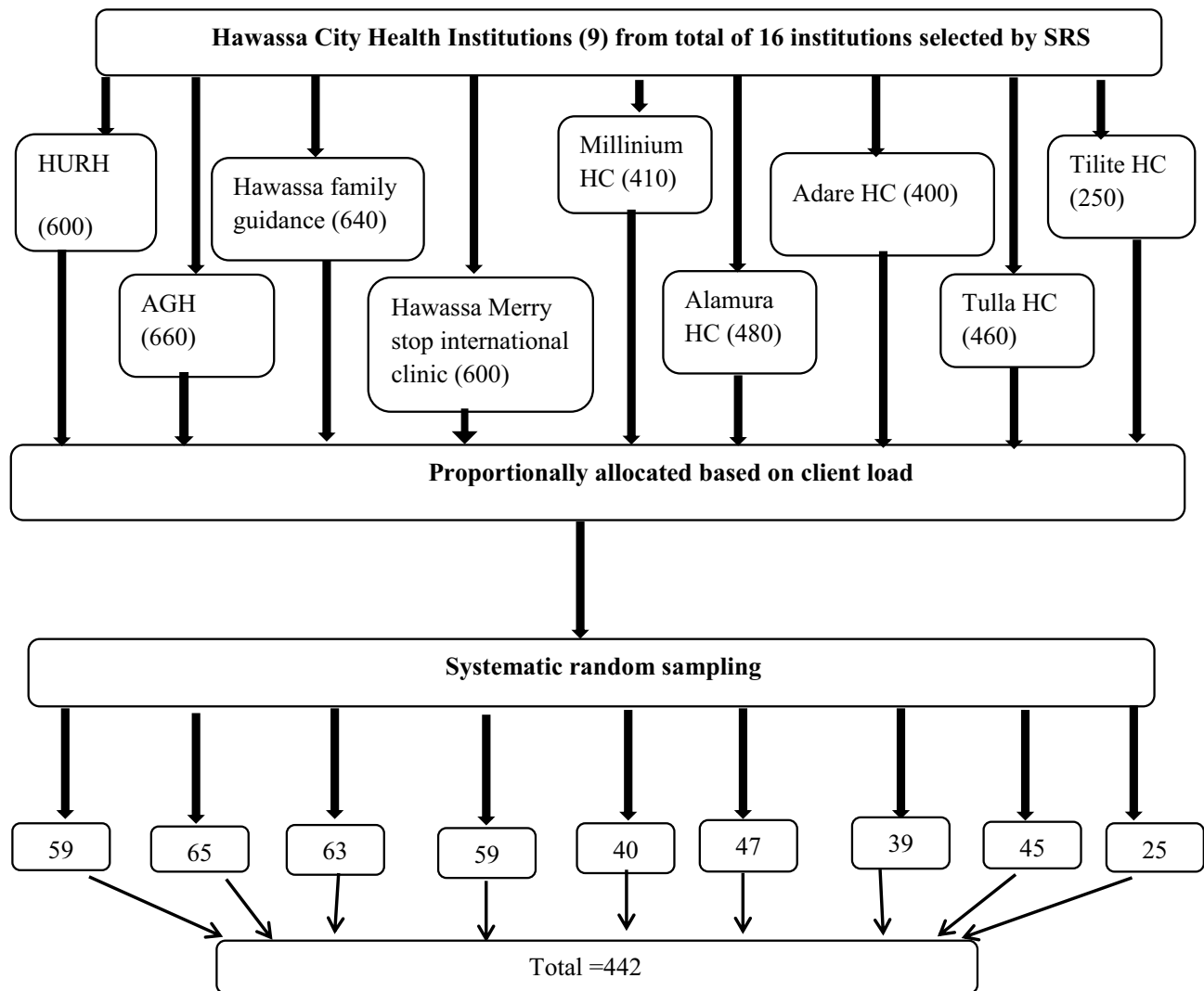


Figure 2 Schematic presentation of sampling procedure for the study developed by the principal investigator.

choosing methods, 192 (43.4%) and 107 (24.2%) were long protection and removability at any time, respectively.

A total of 411 (93.0%) and 319 (72.2%) participants received counseling on the benefits and side effects of LARC during insertion, respectively, 419 (94.8%) participants had an appointment for follow-up during LARC use, while 39 (31.4%) had experienced side effects during LARC use. Suggested reasons for discontinuation showed that side effects were the major driver, accounting for 92 (36.8%), followed by 72 (28.8%) planning to conceive in the near future (Table 4). Among participants who discontinued LARC due to non-side effect reasons, desire for another pregnancy accounted for 72 (28.8%), followed by

67 (26.8%) seeking a switch of method after service end. Others were husband going abroad, husband's objection, divorce, and health concerns (19, 7.6%). Among women who discontinued LARC due to side effects, menstrual disruption accounted for 65 (69.1%), followed by 22 (23.7%) for weight gain (Figure 3).

Magnitude of Reversible Long-Acting Contraceptive Discontinuation

The study aimed to assess the proportion of LARC discontinuation among women who were LARC users and had come with method-related complaints to health

Table 2 Sociodemographic Characteristics of Study Participants (n=442)

	Frequency	Percentage
Age, years		
19–24	112	25.3
25–29	201	45.5
30–34	93	21.0
≤35	36	8.2
Marital status		
Single	11	2.5
Married	431	97.5
Religion		
Orthodox	131	29.6
Muslim	32	7.2
Protestant	267	60.4
Catholic	10	2.3
Other*	2	0.5
Ethnicity		
Sidama	175	39.6
Wolayta	101	22.9
Amhara	84	19.0
Gurage	34	7.7
Oromo	20	4.5
Other*	28	6.3
Occupation		
Housewife	196	44.3
Merchant	79	17.9
Private employee	54	12.2
Government employee	84	19.0
Student	29	6.6
Maternal education		
Unable to read or write	68	15.4
Able to read and write	51	11.5
Primary	112	25.3
Secondary	101	22.9
College and above	110	24.9
Paternal education(n=431)		
Unable to read or write	33	7.7
Able to read and write	30	7.0
Primary	69	16
Secondary	126	29.2
College and above	173	40.1
Husband's occupation (n=431)		
Farmer	27	6.3
Merchant	166	38.5
Private employee	69	16.0
Government employee	151	35.0
Student	7	1.6
Other	11	2.6

facilities during the study period. From 442 study participants, 56.6% (95% CI 52.3%–61.1%) had overall LARC discontinuation (Figure 4). Mean duration of LARC utilization was 2.3±1.3 years.

Factors Associated with Reversible Long-Acting Contraceptive Discontinuation

Findings from bivariate analysis revealed that age, maternal education, paternal education, past contraceptive utilization, desire to be pregnant in the near future, lack of counseling on possible benefits of contraceptives, appointments for follow-up, and developing side effects were significantly associated with LARC discontinuation ($p<0.25$). On multivariate logistic regression analysis only, maternal education, side effects, lack of counseling on possible benefits, and desire to be pregnant in the near future were found statistically significant in LARC discontinuation (Table 5).

Discussion

The proportion of LARC discontinuation among LARCs user women was high. Factors such as maternal education at primary level, lack of counseling on possible benefits of LARCs, side effects, and desire to be pregnant in the near future were significantly associated with discontinuation of LARC. The proportion of LARC discontinuation among women who were users of LARCs was 56.6%. This finding is in line with a study conducted in Australia — 60%.¹³ However, the current proportion is lower than a study conducted in Debre Tabor — 65%.¹⁶ This variation might be due to study nature or study participants. In the Debre Tabor study, participants were both urban and rural residents, but urban only in this study. Awareness of the effects of contraceptives might be higher among urban residents. Moreover, it might have been due to efforts made to improve counseling, especially for those mothers with menstrual disruption and weight-gain problems. These factors might have an impact on lower proportions of LARC discontinuation.

The current proportion was also higher than studies conducted in the US (25.2%), Netherland (47%), Jordan (45%), Pakistan (18%), Egypt (36%), Yemen (43%), Cambodia (45%), Ilorin, Nigeria (26.5%), Abakaliki, southeast Nigeria (29.6%), and Oflla Tigray (16%).^{4,6,10,14,21,23} This difference might be due to lack of preinsertion counseling, particularly about the possible benefits and side effects of methods, compared to other studies. In addition, it might be due to the educational status of the study participants, because more

Table 3 Obstetric-Related Factors for Discontinuation of Reversible Long-Acting Contraceptives (n= 442)

	Frequency	Percentage
Parity		
0	29	6.6
1–2	236	53.4
3+	177	40.0
Number of living children		
0	31	7.0
1–2	263	59.5
3–4	130	29.4
5+	18	4.1
History of abortion		
Yes	142	32.1
No	300	67.9
Desire for pregnancy		
Yes	283	64.0
No	159	36.0
When they wanted to become pregnant (n=283)		
Within 2 years	106	37.5
After 2 years	177	62.5

than half the current participants were had only primary level and below.^{4,10,21,23} Other reasons for differences in the current proportion might be the higher sample size of the current study compared to other studies,^{6,10,14} or sociocultural differences of respondents across the study areas. Lastly, the difference might be because the current study incorporated all LARC methods.

In the present study, the likelihood of discontinuing LARC among women who developed side effects like menstrual irregularity and weight gain were 2.1 times higher than those who did not face side effects. This is consistent with studies conducted in Abakaliki, southeast Nigeria, Debre Tabor, Arsi, Oromia, Jos, Nigeria, and Tigray.^{6,9,14,16,17} Possible reason might be exposure to side effects contributing to discontinuation. In addition to this, respondents who had discontinued LARC due to side effects might have been intolerant of the side effects and feared happening different complications with their health in the future. Lastly, it might be due to similarity of study design and respondents, as well community awareness of LARC.

This study revealed that women who did not get preinsertion counseling service about possible benefits of LARC were 2.5 times more likely to discontinue than those who got counseling services about possible benefits. This is consistent with studies in Tigray, Debre Tabor, India, Diguna Fango, and

Table 4 Contraceptive-Related Characteristics for Discontinuation of Reversible Long-Acting Contraceptives (n=442)

	Frequency	Percentage
Type of LARC used		
Implant	263	59.5
IUCD	91	20.6
Jadelle	88	19.9
Contraceptive use before LARCs		
Yes	301	68.1
No	141	31.9
Type of contraceptive used before LARCs		
OCP	118	39.2
Injectable	233	77.4
IUCD	12	21.6
Implant	66	4.0
Place of insertion		
Hospital	211	47.7
Health center	166	37.6
Health post	2	0.5
Family	57	12.9
Other*	6	1.4
Counseling on benefits of LARCs		
Yes	411	93.0
No	31	7.0
Counseling on side effects of LARCs		
Yes	319	72.2
No	123	27.8
Estimation of information participants got during counseling (satisfaction)		
Yes	341	77.1
No	101	22.9
Have you ever experienced side effects?		
Yes	139	31.4
No	303	68.6
Who chose LARCs?		
Own choice	310	70.1
My husband	35	7.9
Health professional	94	21.3
Health extension	2	0.5
My neighbor	1	0.2
Reason for choosing this method		
Safety	89	20.1
Long protection	192	43.4
Can be removed at any time	107	24.2

(Continued)

Table 4 (Continued).

	Frequency	Percentage
Immediate fertility return	54	12.2
Follow-up		
Yes	419	94.8
No	23	5.2
Removal due to side effects (n=250)		
Yes	92	36.8
No	158	63.2

Note: *Marie Stopes International clinic, private hospitals, and other clinics.

the Philippines.^{5,6,16,19,22} Providing preinsertion or during-insertion counseling about benefits and side effects of LARC was positively associated with use of the methods.^{19,22} As such, a possible justification reason for this factor might be lack of preplacement counseling and support by service providers to help women continue on contraception. In addition, sociocultural differences, lack of skilled counselors, outlook and level of understanding of participants about contraceptives might be the reasons this factor being associated with discontinuation.

According to this study, the odds of discontinuation of LARC among women with primary education were 2.3 times higher than those whose with college and above. This is in line with studies conducted in Bangladesh and Diguna Fango.^{15,22} It might be due to similarities in educational status, level of awareness and capacity of understanding of the nature of contraceptives, and sociocultural values and norms of respondents participating in these studies.

The current study also revealed that the odds of discontinuing LARC among women who desired to be pregnant in the near future were 2.4 times higher than those who did not plan to be pregnant in the near future. This is consistent with studies conducted in Abakaliki, southeast Nigeria, Arsi, Oromia, Jos,

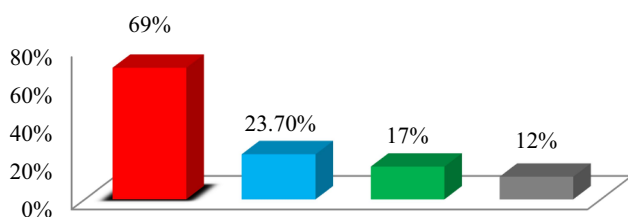


Figure 3 The main side effects for discontinuation of reversible long acting contraceptives among LARC users wome in health facilities of Hawassa city administration, southern Ethiopia, 2019.
 ■ menstrual irregularity; ■ weight gain; ■ Severe headache. ■ Others: insertion-arm pain, aching, weight reduction, and difficulty working.

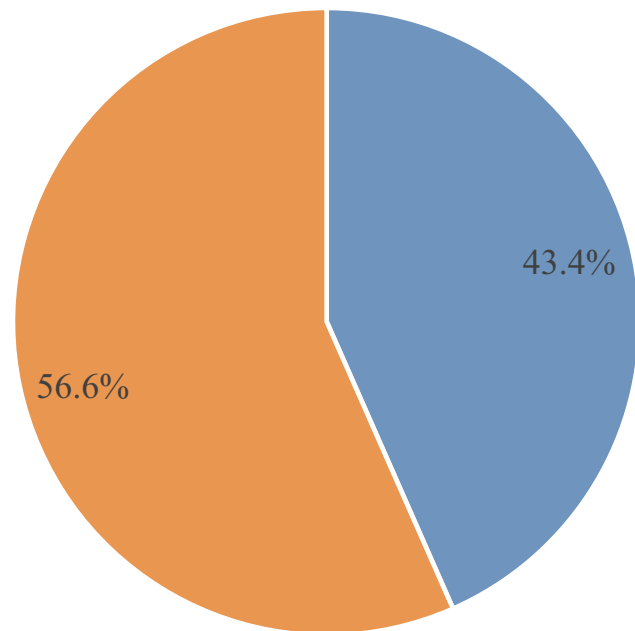


Figure 4 Proportion of reversible long-acting contraceptive methods discontinuation among female LARC users in health facilities of Hawassa city administration, southern Ethiopia, 2019.
 ■ not discontinued; ■ discontinued.

Nigeria, and Ilorin, Nigeria.^{4,9,14,17} This might be due to the fact that women with few or no children might intend to have children or that they might have discontinued the contraceptives. In addition to this, 70.8% of women in the present study were aged 19–29 years. Since they were young, they might intend to have more children and discontinued the contraceptives. Lastly, a majority of study participants in these studies were young, and due to a desire to have babies in the near future, they might discontinued the contraceptives.

Strengths

This study included nine health facilities (multicenter study), which increased external validity. Since it was conducted among women using LARC who had come to the selected health facilities with method-related complaints, recall bias was not challenging, unlike studies conducted on participants who had ever used LARC.

Limitation

The study was conducted in an urban health-institution setting, though the majority of the population lived rurally.

Conclusion

In this study, the overall discontinuation of LARC among women who were using LARCs was high (56.6%). Of the overall proportion of discontinuation, reasons of side

Table 5 Factors Associated with LARC Discontinuation (n= 442)

	LARC Discontinuation, Yes (%) / No (%)		COR (95% CI)	P-value	AOR (95% CI)
Age, years					
≤24	37 (33.0%)	75 (67.0%)	2.838 (1.313–6.134)	0.008	2.186 (0.888–5.380)
25–29	83 (41.3%)	118 (58.7%)	1.990 (0.969–4.088)	0.061	1.536 (0.670–3.522)
30–34	51 (54.8%)	42 (45.2%)	1.153 (0.529–2.511)	0.720	1.012 (0.426–2.405)
≥35	21 (58.3%)	15 (41.7%)	1		
Maternal education					
Unable to read or write	35 (51.5%)	33 (48.5%)	0.909 (0.497–1.665)	0.758	2.331 (0.915–5.942)
Able to read and write	24 (47.1%)	27 (52.9%)	1.085 (0.558–2.109)	0.810	1.567 (0.690–3.560)
Primary	40 (35.7%)	72 (64.3%)	1.736 (1.014–2.972)	0.044	2.332 (1.147–4.739)*
Secondary	39 (38.6%)	62 (61.4%)	1.533 (0.886–2.651)	0.126	1.419 (0.762–2.643)
College and above	54 (49.1%)	56 (50.9%)	1		
Paternal education					
Unable to read or write	17 (51.5%)	16 (48.5%)	0.755 (0.358–1.591)	0.460	0.728 (0.252–2.107)
Able to read and write	16 (53.3%)	14 (46.7%)	0.702 (0.323–1.527)	0.372	0.517 (0.200–1.332)
Primary	30 (43.5%)	39 (56.5%)	1.043 (0.594–1.830)	0.884	0.779 (0.374–1.621)
Secondary	47 (37.3%)	79 (62.7%)	1.348 (0.843–2.156)	0.212	1.099 (0.619–1.949)
College and above	77 (44.5%)	96 (55.5%)	1		
Desire for pregnancy					
Yes	103 (36.4%)	180 (63.6%)	2.222 (1.496–3.301)	<0.0001	2.347 (1.496–3.681)***
No	89 (56.0%)	70 (44.0%)	1		
Contraceptive use before LARCs					
Yes	141 (46.8%)	160 (53.2%)	0.643 (0.426–0.970)	0.035	0.651 (0.410–1.036)
No	51 (36.2%)	90 (63.8%)	1		
Counseling on benefits of LARCs					
Yes	184 (44.8%)	227 (55.2%)	1		
No	8 (25.8%)	23 (74.2%)	2.330 (1.019–5.332)	0.045	2.496 (1.008–6.181)*
Side effects					
Yes	49 (35.3%)	90 (64.7%)	1.642 (1.084–2.485)	0.019	2.092 (1.309–3.341)**
No	143 (47.2%)	160 (52.8%)	1		
Follow-up					
Yes	185 (44.2%)	234 (55.8%)	1		
No	7 (30.4%)	16 (69.6%)	1.807 (0.7284–484)	0.202	1.068 (0.390–2.921)

Notes: *** $P < 0.0001$; ** $P = 0.002$; * $P = 0.019$; $P = 0.048$.

effects and husband's objection accounted for 21.5%. Factors like women with primary education, mothers who did not receive counseling about possible benefits of LARC, women who desired to be pregnant in the near future, and those who developed side effects were to be statistically significant in LARC discontinuation.

Recommendations

Health organizations and other concerned stakeholders could develop programs to work with health-care providers to enhance interventional measures on awareness creation and retention of LARC among the community.

Health professionals ought to give counseling on possible side effects and benefits of LARC before insertion to enhance duration of utilization. In addition to this, health providers could focus more on women whose education is primary and below during education and awareness creation on the whole characteristics of LARC. Further comprehensive study including health professionals and a community-based study are recommended.

Abbreviations

HC, health center; HURH, Hawassa University Referral Hospital; LARC, long acting reversible contraception.

Declarations

This study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Data-Sharing Statement

Data and materials are available.

Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate

The study was approved by the Haramaya University College of Health and Medical Sciences Institutional Health Research Ethics Review Committee (IHRERC). Permission, agreement, and consent was obtained from the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional Health Bureau, Hawassa City Health Department, and heads of the selected health facilities prior to the study. Informed, voluntary, written, and signed consent was obtained from facility heads and participants before data collection started. Participants were also informed that their responses could not result in any harm to them, and were offer full rights and freedom to take part in the study or not. Confidentiality was maintained.

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Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, ie, in study conception, design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis, and interpretation, took part in drafting, revising, or critically reviewing the article, gave final approval to the version to be published, have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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