

ABSTRACT

**A Retrospective Study on the
Psychological Effects Experienced by Women 25-43 Age
who had Voluntary (Female) Sterilization done
at Andrews Memorial Hospital and Glenn Vincent Poly Clinic
Kingston, Jamaica
1991-1992**

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A retrospective study on the psychological effects of Voluntary Female Sterilization on 119 women within the 25-43 age group at Andrews Memorial Hospital and Glenn Vincent Poly Clinic, revealed that (41) 39.5% were within the 35-39 age group and had 2-3 children; (27) 22.7% were Baptist; (20) 16.8% Methodist and (16) 13.4% Roman Catholic. Desired family size was the chief indication for sterilization. Knowledge of voluntary sterilization, and its implication as a permanent procedure were known of by 82% of the study population. Regardless of their age, parity and level of education, a percentage of regret was revealed. Also the desire to be refertilized because of changing life situation was expressed.

The highest percentage of regret occurred among women who had voluntary sterilization done because of illness. A plea is being made for special high risk clinics to be held for these women and also extended counselling sessions.