

Ministerial Conference “Women’s health: a life course approach” Rome, 2-3 October 2014

Conclusions on session 3 - “Reproductive health”

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STDs

- Particularly widespread among young people (< 25 yrs)
- Immunisation programmes are successfully preventing HPV 16/18 infection in sexually active young women
- Since knowledge of STDs is scarce, lifestyle interventions and sexual education are mandatory

Family Planning and Pre-Conceptional Care

- Combination of policy making and strategies, general awareness, education for people and professionals, reimbursement and prevention of discrimination
- Pre-Conceptional Care is the opportunity for timely intervention before crucial events in pregnancy
- Minimization of risk factors is important to reduce potential negative effects on mothers and offspring (also at an older age)
- Investment in conception planning and identification of high risk populations, as well as consistency of information provided are required to obtain positive results

Contraception

- Updated and comparable data on contraceptive prevalence are required

Infertility

- Main reasons are postponement of childbearing, increasing obesity rates, smoking and alcohol consumption, STDs, declining quality of semen, disorders related to exposure to chemicals (a surveillance system of endocrine disorders related to chemicals is required)
- Treatments available are increasingly safe and effective to solve a wider variety of fertility problems
- Big differences in availability and affordability of treatments throughout Europe
- Big legislative and reimbursement differences among countries (cross-border reproductive care)

Pregnancy, Delivery and Puerperium

- Half of maternal death are related to causes that could be potentially avoided. Significant differences among countries
- Enhanced systems of collecting maternal mortality and morbidity data are required.
- Combination of pre-conceptional care and antenatal care
- Education of pregnant women is necessary
- Many pre-term births, with all subsequent problems
- Pregnancy and delivery have long-term consequences on women’s physical and psychological health
- C-sections and other medical interventions should be provided only if necessary



General Recommendations

1. To preserve pregnancy, birth and puerperium as times for extra need and protection.
2. Put woman into the center maternity care.
3. Promote having the first child younger than today.
4. Advance the role of midwives in taking care of pregnancies and births.
5. Fight against harmful over-medicalization of pregnancy and birth care.
6. Integrate care of immigrant women into the mainstream health services.
7. Keep/ improve social benefits for pregnancy, birth, and puerperium.
8. Research to increase knowledge and to put that into action, is needed.