HAEMOGLOBIN LEVEL IN WOMEN WITH 
POST-PARTUM IUD INSERTIONS

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Intrauterine contraceptive devices have been inserted early in the post-partum period of patients at this Institute since January 1966 with satisfactory results (Hingorani & Uma Bai, 1968; Hingorani, 1970). The insertions were easy and painless and the expulsion rate has not been too high (Hingorani & Uma Bai, 1968; Phatak, 1969; Hingorani, 1970). Although women did not particularly complain of postinsertional bleeding, it was observed that there was higher incidence of prolonged lochia and menorrhagia in such women compared to post-partum women without IUDs (Hingorani, Uma Bai & Kakkar, 1970). The present study was undertaken to elucidate whether the increased incidence of prolonged lochia or menorrhagia had any effect on the haemoglobin levels of women fitted with an IUD in the post-partum period.

A total of 105 women were fitted 3 to 7 days post partum with 30-mm Lippe’s loops, using a modified inserter (Hingorani, 1968), and another 100 post-partum women were observed as a control group. Haemoglobin estimations were carried out by the Sahli method (Wintrobe, 1961) after standardizing the haemoglobinometer with the colorimeter. Haemoglobin estimations were carried out on the day of insertion (or on the 3rd to 7th day post partum in the control group) and again after 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 24 and 36 months. A detailed clinical record was maintained and cervical swab cultures were made initially and at follow-up visits. The results of the bacteriological studies (Uma Bai, Bhujwala, Prakash & Hingorani, 1970), the menstrual pattern and lochia (Hingorani et al., 1970), the presence of lactation and lactational amenorrhoea (Hingorani & Uma Bai, 1970) and other symptomatology (Hingorani, Uma Bai & Kakkar, 1969a, b) have been reported elsewhere. This study records the results of the haemoglobin estimations.

Initial and subsequent mean haemoglobin levels for both IUD and control groups are shown in Text-fig. 1. Patients in both the groups had been kept on 5-grain Fersolate tablets. Even though the average duration for the persistence of lochia in the IUD group was longer than in the control group (31.46 days compared to 24.31 days, P < 0.001), there was no significant difference in the haemoglobin level in the two groups up to 3 months. In fact, the haemoglobin levels at 6 months and 9 months were significantly higher in the women with IUDs in spite of the fact that there was a higher incidence of menorrhagia in the IUD group compared to the control group (16% and 2% respectively, P < 0.05). Apparently, the women in the IUD group were able to maintain their haemo-
globin levels and were able to make up the extra menstrual blood loss. Possibly the treatment with iron tablets had some beneficial effect.

![Graph showing haemoglobin levels](image)

Text-fig. 1. Mean haemoglobin levels post partum in women with and without IUDs.

\*P < 0.05; \**P < 0.01.

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REFERENCES


