



EVIDENCE-BASED ETHICS

CONTRACEPTION:
SUBTLETY OF EVIL



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- ◆ 62 Million U.S. women are in childbearing yrs. (15-44)
- ◆ 43 Million women of reproductive age (7-10) are sexually active and do not wish to conceive, but could!
- ◆ Typical U.S. woman wants only 2 children
- ◆ To achieve only 2, she must “avoid” pregnancy for over 30 yrs of life



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- ◆ 98% women 15-44, sexually active, have used at least one method of contraception (2% NFP)
- ◆ 62% of 62 million (38.5) currently use contraception
- ◆ 31% of 62 million (19.2) do not need method because they are infertile, pregnant, postpartum or trying to conceive, abstinent or virginal
- ◆ 7% women 15-44 are at risk of unwanted pregnancy but not using contraception



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- ◆ Among 42 million fertile sexually active females who do not wish to conceive, 89% contracept
- ◆ 64% reproductive –aged women who contracept use reversible methods
- ◆ Remaining males and females rely on sterilization
- ◆ Under age 30, pill is leading method
- ◆ 35 and over- sterilization is leading method



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- ◆ Sterilization is leading method among black and hispanic
- ◆ Sterilization is most commonly relied upon by women over 35, married with less than college education (10.7 million)
- ◆ 50% all women 40-44 have been sterilized
- ◆ 18% male partners have been sterilized (4.2 M)
- ◆ 7.3 million women use barrier methods
- ◆ 3.1 million teenagers use contraceptives



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- ◆ Federal employees are guaranteed insurance coverage for contraception
- ◆ 6.7 million women (1.9 million teenagers) received contraceptive services from publicly funded clinics
- ◆ 21 states have laws mandating insurances to provide contraceptive coverage



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- ◆ All above stats from Guttmacher Institute ,
January, 2006
- ◆ 85 % Catholics contracept
- ◆ 37% Catholics have been sterilized



SPIRITUAL DIMENSION

- ◆ Exodus 23: 25-26; Deuteronomy 7:13-14- God promises blessings which include no miscarriages or barrenness; children are blessings from God and married couples must always be open to God's plan for new life with every act of marital intimacy
- ◆ Romans 1: 26-27- sexual acts without possibility of procreation is sinful. Self giving love is life giving love or the love is a lie.



SPIRITUAL DIMENSION

- ◆ The unitive and procreative elements of marital love can never be divided, or the marital love is divided, and God is left out of the marriage
- ◆ Ephesians 5: 29-31; Phil. 3: 2- mutilating the flesh (e.g. sorcery, “pharmkeia” and sterilization) is gravely sinful.

CATECHISM

- ◆ 2370: periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality....In contrast, every action which, whether in anticipation of, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil.



CATECHISM

- ◆ 2371: Let all be convinced that human life and the duty of transmitting it are not limited by the horizons of this life only: their true evaluation and full significance can be understood only in reference to *man's eternal destiny*.



CATECHISM

- ◆ 2378: A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The “supreme gift of marriage” is a human person. A child may not be considered a piece of property, an idea to which an alleged “right to a child” would lead. In this area, only the child possesses genuine rights: the right “to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of the parents” and the “right to be respected as a person from the moment of conception”



CATECHISM

- ◆ 2398: Fecundity is a good, a gift and an end of marriage. By giving life, spouses participate in God's fatherhood.
- ◆ 2399: The regulation of births represents one of the aspects of responsible fatherhood and motherhood. Legitimate intentions on the part of the spouses do not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means (for example, direct sterilization or contraception)





CHURCH DOCUMENTS

- ◆ *Humanae Vitae* (1968):14- “we must once again declare that the direct interruption of the generative process already begun, and , above all, directly willed and procured abortion, even if for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as licit means of regulating birth. Equally excluded,, is direct sterilization, whether perpetual or temporary, whether of man or of the woman. Similarly excluded is every action whichwould render procreation impossible”.

CASTI CONNUBII PIUS XI



- ◆ “Thus amongst the blessings of marriage, the child holds the first place”.
- ◆ St. Augustine: “The Apostle himself is therefore a witness that marriage is for the sake of generation.”
- ◆ “...the procreation of new life is the right and privilege of the married state alone, by the law of God and nature.

CASTI CONNUBII



- ◆ “But no reason, however grave, may be put forward by which anything intrinsically against nature may become conformable to nature and morally good. Since, therefore, the conjugal act is destined primarily by nature for the begetting of children, those who in exercising it deliberately frustrate its natural power and purpose sin against nature and commit a deed which is shameful and intrinsically vicious.”
- ◆ “....any use of matrimony exercised in such a way that the act (of intercourse) is deliberately frustrated in its natural power to generate life is an offense against the law of God and of nature, and those who indulge in such are branded with the guilt of grave sin.”

DONUM VITAE

- ◆ 2. “It Would be illusory to claim that scientific research and its applications are morally neutral....”
- ◆ 4. “The inviolability of the innocent being’s right to life ‘from the moment of conception until natural death’ is a sign and requirement of the very inviolability of the person to whom the Creator has given the gift of life.



DONUM VITAE

1987

- ◆ I. 1.: Life, once conceived, must be protected with the utmost care; abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes”.
- ◆ 8. “The suffering of spouses who cannot have children or who are afraid of bringing a handicapped child into the world is a suffering that everyone must understand and properly evaluate”.



EVANGELIUM VITAE

1995

- ◆ Chap. 1:3.- “.....a new cultural climate is developing and taking hold, which gives crimes against life a *new and –if possible- even more sinister character*, giving rise to further grave concern: broad sectors of public opinion justify certain crimes against life in the name of rights of individual freedom, and on this basis they claim not only exemption from punishment but even authorization by the state, so that these things can be done with total freedom and indeed with the free assistance of health-care systems”.



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

1981

- ◆ Part Two: 11:....The totality which is required by conjugal love also corresponds to the demands of responsible fertility. This fertility is directed to the generation of a human being, and so by its nature it surpasses the purely biological order and involves a whole series of personal values. For the harmonious growth of these values a persevering and unified contribution by both parents is necessary.





PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

- ◆ God does not desire that married couples have unlimited numbers of children.
- ◆ God calls married couples to responsible parenthood, with responsibilities being to God, each other, family and society.
- ◆ Periodic continence (catechism 2370) using natural methods (NFP) does not violate the dictates of God's plan for life and love



PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

- ◆ If there is already a method of spacing births that is 98-99% effective and conforms with God's plan of life and love, why do we need other artificial means which do not and may be harmful?
- ◆ The most “serious side effect” of NFP is a child, which is the “supreme gift of marriage”.



PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

- ◆ Contraception violates the nature of the conjugal act.
- ◆ Contraception is anti-life
- ◆ Contraception is NOT a sexual act.
- ◆ Contraception is an act of willing against a possible life.
- ◆ Someone not engaging in sex cannot contracept.
- ◆ Contraception is a willing that a life not exist; i.e. contra-life.



PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

- ◆ What makes the act of contraception itself is the will of the acting person (not the method)i.e., beliefs, intentions and choices which render contraceptive behavior. Therefore, it is impossible for such an act not to be contra-life.
- ◆ NFP can be used with contraceptive intent.



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Ob/Gyn: Post Fertilization Effects of EC: Kahlenborn, Stanford, Larrimore; 3/02 Vol 36 Annals of Pharmacotherapy
- ◆ Forum-Westhoff/Wysocki: Medical Eligibility for Contraception Use- Table 2: Hypertension, IDDM, Ischemic Heart Dx, Stroke, Complicated valvular heart dx, breast Ca, Endometrial or Ovar Ca all increase maternal risk with pill use



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ WHO has developed guidelines for classifying use of hormonal contraceptives in the face of chronic health conditions (2004)
- ◆ Lancet-1996: Collaborative Group on Breast Ca- review of 54 epidemiologic studies- results= increased risk of breast ca with pill use, especially if before first full term pregnancy. There is a 10 fold increase of Breast Ca if taken before age 20.



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Health- 3/2002: 26% increase risk of breast ca secondary to hormonal contraceptives.
- ◆ Lancet, 2003- Vol 361: 1159-67- Increased risk of cervical cancer secondary to hormonal contraceptives
- ◆ Overview of Breast Ca and Pill: Kahlenborn 9/05= most extensive review of all literature



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ WHO: Increased risks of cv events, increased risks of VTE, increased risk of stroke, increased risks of MI secondary to htn; ACOG, 2001
- ◆ The longer a woman takes hormonal contraceptives and the older she gets, the higher the risks, especially of breast ca (Breast Ca: Risks and Prevention, LaFranchi, Brind 3rd Ed, 2005)



Breast Ca and Pill

- ◆ Chilvers- 44% increase >4 yrs use prior to FFTP
- ◆ Brinton- 42% increase
- ◆ Clavel- 50% increase
- ◆ Chie- 10% increase
- ◆ CASH Study- 40% increase
- ◆ 18 of 20 studies show increase
- ◆ Kahlenborn Table 9 B pg. 151-Breast Ca:Link to Abortion and Birth Control



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ 24% increased risk of breast ca for women currently taking pill
- ◆ 58% increased risk of breast ca for women who have taken pill over longer period of time (5 yrs)
- ◆ 144% increased risk among women over 45

Health Mag, March 2003; Kumle, Norway Third European Breast Ca Conference in Barcelona with data from 103,000 women between 30-49



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Hormonal Contraceptives work by:
 - ◆ Preventing ovulation –96%
 - ◆ Interfering sperm migration-2%
 - ◆ Preventing Implantation- 1%

- ◆ Kahlenborn: Breast Ca: Its Link to Abortion and birth control (appendix 5)



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ If HPV + plus 10 yrs of pill use the risk of cervical ca is greater than if not on pill
- ◆ 10% if < 5 yrs use
- ◆ 30 % if 5-9 yrs use
- ◆ 150% if > 10 yrs use

Lancet 2003, Vol 361



MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Increase in prematurity and low birth weight
- ◆ Increase in multiple pregnancies
- ◆ Increase in infertility
- ◆ Increase in sexually transmitted diseases



PILL SIDE EFFECTS

- ◆ Increased risk hypertension
- ◆ Increased risks of VTE
- ◆ Increased risks of stroke and cv dx
- ◆ Increased risks of liver tumors
- ◆ Increased risks of gall bladder dx
- ◆ Death (14 with patch in 3 yrs)



MORAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ JP II:
- ◆ NFP challenges us to :
- ◆ Respect the bodies of the spouses
- ◆ Encourage tenderness between spouses
- ◆ Favor education of an authentic freedom
- ◆ In an innate language that expresses the total reciprocal self-giving of husband and wife



MORAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ JP II: On Contraception:
- ◆ Is an objectively contradictory language (not giving one's self totally to the other)
- ◆ Leads to a positive refusal to be open to life
- ◆ And, is a falsification of the inner truth of conjugal love.

- ◆ TOB



SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Divorce rate has increased from 5% to over 50%
- ◆ Number of children affected by divorce has increased from 400,000 to over 1.2 million
- ◆ 66% children grow up in single parent households
- ◆ Rise in divorce rate parallels increase in use of contraception



SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Six to seven fold increase in number of unmarried women who have given birth
- ◆ Increase in child abuse and neglect
- ◆ Increase in abortion parallels increased use of contraceptives
- ◆ Increase in violent juvenile crime
- ◆ Increase in drug abuse
- ◆ Increase in suicide and depression



ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Estimated annual medical costs for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in U.S. = \$8.39 Billion (Kaiser Foundation 98)
- ◆ Federal funding from tax payer dollars to PPH in 2002 was \$2.45 Billion/yr



ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ $\$30/\text{pk} \times 12 \text{ mos} = \$360/\text{yr}$
- ◆ 10 million women use pill = \$3.6 billion
- ◆ Couples who inadvertently conceive a child are likely to abort
- ◆ Abortion is desired “back up” to contraception
- ◆ $1.3 \text{ M abs/yr} \times (\$300\text{-cl}; \$2\text{k-hosp}) = \$3.9 \text{ B} +$

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Increased depression
- ◆ Decreased libido (increasing above)
- ◆ Continued violation of natural laws, usurpation of parental rights, total disregard of 10 commandments- spiritual disruption and fracture of relationship with God= moral crisis
- ◆ Decreased self esteem –women as sex objects



PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Increased divorce rates
- ◆ Degradation of families
- ◆ All predictions of Paul VI in HV (1968) come true.



PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ We are wounded by culture of death
- ◆ Factors: sexual revolution and radical feminism
- ◆ Skyrocketing divorce rate
- ◆ Less Stable families
- ◆ Teen promiscuity
- ◆ Teen pregnancy
- ◆ Easy Abortion
- ◆ Devaluation of womanhood and motherhood
- ◆ Isolation; selfishness and self centeredness



PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- ◆ Depression and Anxiety
- ◆ Treat Fertility as a disease
- ◆ Many depressive symptoms arise from sense of dehumanization
- ◆ Depersonalization of sex
- ◆ Dissociative Disorder-insulation of the “executive” self from effects of abuse
- ◆ Sweeney: Inst of Psych Services; April, 2002



CONCLUSIONS

- ◆ Everything passes by way of the family
- ◆ Most important foundation to keep safe is the family for the good of society
- ◆ Modern technology can extend the forces of evil throughout the world at an alarming rate
- ◆ Time to end the culture of death and convert to a culture of life and love.
- ◆ Education is the key. As Physicians we have a responsibility to “do no harm”.
- ◆ Fertility is not a disease
- ◆ Physicians are the key to stop contraception

