

**P72.78 QUINACRINE PELLET NON-SURGICAL FEMALE STERILIZATION :
A NON-GOVERNMENTAL SERVICE INITIATIVE IN SOUTH INDIA**

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There is considerable unmet need for female sterilization in South India, much of which could be supplied by the private sector if there were a safe, inexpensive and effective non-surgical method. The quinacrine pellet method is the leading candidate for this purpose with an international experience of over 100,000 cases. The method involves transcervical insertion of quinacrine pellets totaling 252 mg in the proliferative phase of 2 consecutive menstrual cycles using a modified IUCD inserter. Any clinician experienced in IUCD insertion and sterilization counseling should be able to provide this method. It is not yet approved for introduction in the government family planning programme but a group of gynaecologists, general practitioners and medical college clinics in South India decided to encourage its use in pilot studies. Lectures were given at medical society meetings where an excellent training video concerning counseling and proper insertions technique was shown. Some postgraduate students conducted clinical trials as part of their doctoral thesis. Local State governments gave informal support but would not officially endorse the method without central government approval. The method is now spreading in private practices of gynaecologists and general practitioners in South India. With increasing usage of the method it should become a viable commercial option for marketing in the private sector, which could increase contraceptive prevalence with no burden to the government.