

**SP76.3**      **QUINACRINE STERILIZATION: DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE METHOD**

JA Zipper, A Dabancens, V Trujillo  
Department of Physiology and Biophysics  
University of Chile, Santiago, Chile

Starting in the mid-1960s we tested various agents, using the rat as an experimental animal for the effect of intrauterine administration on fertility. Quinacrine was finally chosen for the first clinical trial in the late 1960s as the toxicology of quinacrine had already been completed for oral use. The first clinical trials used two or three monthly transcervical instillations of a quinacrine slurry, but pregnancy failures were 9.1 per 100 women at one year using 1.5g of quinacrine in 3 installations. There was also a worrisome side effect of cortical excitation noted in 2% of cases. In the late 1970s we changed to quinacrine as pellets that would accommodate a Copper T IUD inserter. Efficacy was improved leading to 3.1 pregnancy failures per 100 women at one year using 252mg quinacrine for 3 monthly transcervical insertions. No case of cortical excitation has been reported for quinacrine pellets. Efficacy has been further improved by research of others using an insertion technique that assures deposit of pellets at the fundus and use of an adjuvant contraceptive for 3 months from time of last insertion. With these improvements high efficacy is achievable with even a single insertion of quinacrine 252mg. A long-term follow-up of 1,492 women in Chile who had received quinacrine sterilization between 1971 and 1991 showed no increased risk of cancer of the uterus. Further rat studies suggest quinacrine is actually protective against experimental cancers in this species. After reviewing all accumulated data on quinacrine sterilization and reported toxicology studies the method was approved for use in Chile as an option to women requesting sterilization.

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