

ABSTRACT

Secondary infertility is one type of female infertility in which a woman who had previously conceived is unable to subsequently conceive despite engaging in regular unprotected sexual intercourse for a period of one year. Although globally 60-80 million couples are suffering with infertility with most of them being in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is a paucity of data on the prevalence of secondary infertility in Kenya. Moreover, secondary infertility has a multifactorial etiology but there is a paucity of data on its predictors in Kenya. The study aimed at determining the demographic characteristics, knowledge, attitude and practices and obstetric characteristics among infertile women attending infertility clinic at Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital. To this end, a Case control study design of 113 cases and 113 age-matched controls was used. Data was collected using self-administered questionnaires and organized focused group discussions. Categorical data was analyzed using Chi-square while association between secondary infertility and the predictors was analyzed using univariate and multivariate regression analysis to compute odds ratio (OR). Qualitative data was coded and stratified into the emerging themes. A statistical significance threshold of $P \leq 0.05$ was applied. The results of this study showed that Women with secondary infertility were more likely to have used hormonal contraceptives 3.6(2.2-3.9), to have irregular menstrual cycle 10.7 (4.6-25.2) or to have had abnormal pregnancy 2.4 (1.6-3.6). This study revealed that those who had sought unskilled care 2.9 (1.9-4.5) or had suffered from sexually transmitted diseases 3.6 (2.2-3.9) were more likely to have secondary infertility. In addition, those who had stayed for long before seeking treatment for STDs 1.79 (1.39-2.3) and those who had sexual relationships with other partners 7.8 (2.3-27.4) were more likely to have secondary infertility. Further analysis revealed that those who had undergone ANC screening were less likely 0.81 (.04-1.6) to have secondary infertility relative to those who had not been screened. The findings of the study agreed with other mostly recent studies, that early detection and management of STI, skilled care during delivery and regular cycles are important for controlling infertility. Therefore, public health programs aimed at preventing secondary infertility need to put in place improved pre-conceptual care, antenatal care screening services, improved screening for STIs and early treatment, proper obstetric care, avoiding unsafe abortion and provision of family planning services adequately.