

Update on 2018 Koch Publication

For more than 30 years, Valley Electronics has been engaged in various areas of research with the focus on "Fertility Awareness Methods." This led to 8 published clinical tests and many other published reports and oral talks. The founder of Valley Electronics, Dr. Hubertus Rechberg, is one of the pioneers in the field of natural family planning. In this tradition, it was a matter of great importance to us, to be a part of a clinical aim again in 2018.

Background

The aim of the 2018 study was to determine whether the additional use of an app (DaysyView) and the associated digitalization of the data would change the way the fertility tracker, Daysy, is used.

The study was conducted by independent scientists from the University of Erlangen. Our contribution to the study was to support the scientists with shared data provided by our users who elected to participate and the online survey.

Concerns

There are several reasons why the scientists now, and in the past, have chosen a retrospective design for the study:

- Retrospective design gives scientists the opportunity to not limit the study by region. Since there are many cultural differences, it is important to get an international cross-section of the population. For example, women from the USA, Switzerland, Germany, South Africa, Israel, Thailand, Australia and India participated in the study (36 different countries in total).
- In the way of design, it was not possible, for example, to exclude certain ethnic groups or social strata. It is not possible to exclude participants due to illness or their educational background.
- The retrospective design of the study has another very practical background. The study referenced here is only part of other related research projects. The same survey also asked questions about pain, irregular cycles, endometriosis, and the use of medication. The first results of further studies (not published) have already been orally presented at international congresses.

Unexpectedly, seven months after the study was published, the editors changed their opinion and decided that the retrospective design might have weaknesses that could potentially influence the result. While these weaknesses have already been transparently addressed in the study itself, in the end, they have caused the editors of the journal Reproductive Health to decide to retract the publication.

Given these recent developments in the femtech world and our desire to always strive to improve, we plan to begin undertaking an independent prospective study as soon as possible. We are eager to get started and are looking forward to sharing the results with all of our dedicated users and the broader women's health community.

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