



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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28 February 2005

CHN43367.E

China: Whether an "injection" was used for sterilization or contraception purposes among women in 1992; methods of sterilization and contraception prevalent in Guangdong in 1992; if applicable, on what part of the body injections were administered

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on the use of "injections" for sterilization or contraception purposes among women in 1992 was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In an undated article, Li Wei-xiong of the National Research Institute for Family Planning in Beijing listed injectable contraceptives as one of a number of contraceptive methods available in China. According to a lecture on injectable contraceptives given by the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, "Chinese Injectable No. 1," a once-a-month injectable contraceptive, "is widely available in China," though its use is reportedly declining "as alternative methods are promoted by the [National Population and Family Planning Commission]" (13 Aug. 2003). According to the lecture, around 1.5 million women, "mainly in Latin America and China," used once-a-month injectable contraceptives (ibid.), while a World Health Organization (WHO) advisor noted in a 4 June 1993 AP article that around 1 million women in China were using a once-a-month contraceptive. In 1993, the WHO endorsed the use of two once-a-month injectable contraceptives - Cyclofem and Mesigyna - neither of which was the type of injectable contraceptive available in China at the time (AP 4 June 1993).

Laparoscopy, a method of sterilization, involves the injection of carbon dioxide into the abdomen to "inflate" it and allow "the organs to be seen clearly" during the operation (ARPH n.d.). Information on the use of laparoscopy as a method of sterilization among women in China in 1992 could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, according to Li Wei-xiong, tubal ligation as a birth control method was used by 40.25 per cent of Chinese women surveyed in 1994 (n.d.). Ligation is a method of sterilization for women involving "tying each fallopian tube with suture material and cutting it" (Engender Health 2002). Reportedly, tubal ligation in China is performed by "experienced family planning workers... in only 8-10 [minutes]," usually on women who have had a second or third child (Li n.d.).

Data on the methods of sterilization and contraception in use in Guangdong province in 1992 could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, statistics published in the *World Contraceptive*

Use 1998 survey released by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs show that in 1992, 35 per cent of Chinese women of reproductive age who were married or in a consensual relationship had been sterilized, 33 per cent had used the intrauterine device (IUD), 3 per cent had made use of a contraceptive pill, 2 per cent had used condoms, and 0.2 per cent had relied on other contraceptive methods, such as injectable contraceptives and diaphragms. While the Population Reference Bureau found that, in 1997, the percentage of women of child-bearing age in China who had used injectable contraceptives was nil (2002), the UN Population Division's *World Contraceptive Use 2003* survey indicated that 0.4 per cent of women in China of reproductive age who were married or in a consensual relationship polled in 1997 had used either injectable contraceptives or "implants" (excluding the IUD) (21 April 2004a). Data contained in the 2003 contraceptive use survey show only the primary or most effective method of contraception used by the women surveyed (UN 21 Apr. 2004b).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

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Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International, Asia Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Watch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN).

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