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# Bits and Pieces: A Crowd-Sourced Series of 54 Cases of Fractured Hormonal Implants

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### Abstract

#### Study Objective

The fracture of hormonal implants, including Implanon, Nexplanon (both from Merck & Co, Inc), and histrelin acetate is rare. Our aim was to describe patient demographic characteristics, mechanisms, and consequences of fractured implants by surveying physicians' experience via listservs and social media.

#### Design, Setting, Participants, Interventions, and Main Outcome Measures

We developed a Research Electronic Data Capture survey for physicians regarding their experience with implant fracture, including patient characteristics, mechanism of fracture, changes in menstrual bleeding patterns, time from insertion to fracture, and time from fracture to seeking care. We distributed the survey to providers in listservs for the North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, the Family Planning Fellowship, the Ryan Program, and the Facebook Physician Moms Group and Facebook OB-GYN Mom Group. We performed descriptive analyses.

#### Results

We received 42 survey responses, representing 54 discrete implant fractures of which 70% (n=14) were Nexplanon, 26% (n=38) were Implanon, and 4% (n=2) were histrelin acetate. Mechanisms of implant fracture included patient manipulation (23%, n=12), unintentional trauma (11%, n=6), interpersonal violence (8%, n=4), lifting/carrying (6%, n=3), fracture with removal (6%, n=3), and unknown (47%, n=25). Bleeding pattern was not altered in 78% (n=42) of cases. Time interval between placement and fracture was less than 2 years for 63% (n=34) of cases. Thirty-nine percent (n=21) of patients presented for care more than 1 month from the time of fracture.

#### Conclusion

Patients should be counseled about potential for hormonal implant fracture, advised against excessive manipulation of implants, and counseled to present for care immediately upon noticing an implant fracture. Surveying physicians through listservs and social media is an effective strategy to increase the reporting of rare complications and events.

#### Key Words:

[Contraception](#), [Implant](#), [Nexplanon](#), [Implanon crowdsourcing](#), [Fractured implants](#)

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The authors indicate no conflicts of interest.

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