‘LET’S GET YOU WELL’ SHOULD COME BEFORE ‘LET’S GET YOU PREGNANT’

Key findings of EndoActive’s online snap poll:

- 91% of women were urged by a doctor to have a baby as a cure for endometriosis.
- 35% had 1-5 babies. All reported their pain was worse.

Introduction

Health care professionals are still prescribing pregnancy as a ‘cure’ or a treatment option for women with endometriosis (endo) (1). This treatment is a myth that has serious medical, psychosocial and ethical implications (2). Getting pregnant or having a baby is not a cure for endo (2) and to prescribe pregnancy as a cure or treatment option for patients with endo is unethical and inappropriate.

Objective

To examine the ethics of health care professionals perpetuating the medical myth that pregnancy cures endo and advising their young patients to give birth to cure their disease.

Method

Women and girls with endo were asked via an online snap poll in February 2016 if they had been told by a doctor that pregnancy will cure their endo. 136 responses were analysed. A literature review was also conducted and analysed using an ethics-focused approach.

Results

Results are summarised in the infographics at left.

References


endoactive.org.au