

Levonorgestrel IUD potentially cost-effective in obese women

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(HealthDay)—For obese women, the levonorgestrel intrauterine device

(IUD) could be cost-effective for preventing endometrial cancer deaths, according to a study published in the October issue of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Joseph A. Dottino, M.D., M.P.H., from the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., and colleagues used a modified Markov model to compare IUD placement at age 50 with usual care among [women](#) with a BMI ≥ 40 or ≥ 30 kg/m². The authors incorporated the effect of obesity on incidence and survival. The IUD was assumed to confer a 50 percent reduction in the incidence of endometrial cancer over five years; costs of IUD and cancer care were included in the analyses.

The researchers found that the IUD strategy was costlier and more effective than usual care for a 50-year-old with BMI ≥ 40 kg/m², with a cost-effectiveness ratio of \$74,707 per year of life saved. Assuming the protective effect of the levonorgestrel IUD was 10 years, the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio would decrease to \$37,858 per life-year saved. In women with BMIs of ≥ 40 kg/m² or costs less than \$500, a levonorgestrel IUD that reduces cancer incidence by at least 68 percent would be cost-effective. The incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of IUD strategy was \$137,223 per life-year saved compared with usual care for women with BMI ≥ 30 kg/m².

"The levonorgestrel IUD is a potentially cost-effective strategy for prevention of deaths from endometrial [cancer](#) in [obese women](#)," the authors write.

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