A cross sectional descriptive study on the side effects of temporary contraceptive methods among current contraceptive users in Rajvithi Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand was carried out. The purpose of this study was to find out the self-reported side effects of temporary contraceptive methods as well as to determine the factors that affect the side effects of each contraception among the current users.

From 15 March to 12 April, 2000, 185 women of current contraceptive users were interviewed with structured questionnaires at the family planning unit of Rajvithi Hospital. The data was collected from 60 pills users, 62 injectables users and 63 IUD users.

The results found that 6.5% of the respondents were less than 20 years old and 9.7% were between 40-49 years of age. Most of the respondents 46.5% had the elementary level of education and one third of respondents were housewives. Regarding the responsible person to advise contraceptive use, mostly 29.7% had self decision followed by 58.8% from doctors, nurses and family planning personnel. The median duration of IUD and Pill users was 2 years and injectable users was 1 year. 82.7% of respondents had side effects. It was evident that menstrual disturbance is the most commonest side effect for all methods. Pill users were more prone to have menstrual spotting and amenorrhoea is mostly occurred in injectable users. Headache, dizziness and weight gain were also considerable side effect of pill and injectable users. Increased menstrual bleeding, vaginal discharge and abdominal pain were most commonly reported by IUD users. Concerning the perceived severity, majority of the respondents thought that it was not serious. So, most of the respondents did not seek any treatment for their side effects and thus side effects were relieved automatically or they were still persistent.

Furthermore, there was a strong relationship between specific method choice and occurrence of side effect. Although there were no significant relationships between the age, education, occupation, duration of use and occurrence of side effects but after controlling the currently used method, there was a relationship between educational level and occurrence of side effect among IUS users.