We successfully completed a feasibility study of placement of the Mirena intrauterine device after women have a vaginal delivery and reach their hospital postpartum accommodation, but prior to leaving the hospital. We enrolled 40 women into the study while they were still pregnant, and 29 of them had an uncomplicated delivery at University of North Carolina Women's Hospital and thus were able to receive the IUD. Overall women were very pleased with placement of the IUD at this time, they reported that placement was not painful, and they all said they would recommend such placement to a friend. The disappointing finding in the study was that 30% of the IUDs came out spontaneously within 4 weeks of placement. We believe that was due to inexperience of the Investigators.

The conclusions of the study were that placement of the Mirena IUD in women between seven and 48 hours of an uncomplicated vaginal delivery is feasible, and acceptable to women. We have received a grant to continue investigation of this novel IUD insertion method, but in a larger group of women.