

# Neurological Complications Of Oral Contraceptives

REVIEW

## Cerebrovascular Diseases Associated with the Use of Oral Contraceptives

A Review of the English-Language Literature

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Clinical reports suggest that the use of oral contraceptives predisposes to migraine-like headache and transient or completed cerebral ischemic syndromes in otherwise healthy young women. Vertebrobasilar artery distribution stroke, previously considered rare in young women, was reported in about one fourth of idiopathic stroke patients using oral contraceptives. Limited autopsy studies of previously healthy women dying from stroke and other thromboembolic diseases while using oral contraceptives indicate significant changes in the vascular system as the primary lesion. Controlled retrospective studies of previously healthy young women diagnosed as having cerebral thrombosis indicate an estimated sixfold increased risk of such morbidity and mortality with the use of the oral contraceptives. However, data on cerebrovascular mortality in women of childbearing age indicate no significant change. This lack of overall change may be due to a concurrent reduction in cerebrovascular mortality from other causes.

NUMEROUS CLINICAL REPORTS have suggested that neurologic complications may result from the use of oral contraceptives; cerebrovascular occlusive syndromes including those of the retinal arteries, migrainous ("vascular") headaches, and other assorted cerebrovascular disorders have been observed. Retrospective epidemiologic studies by British and American investigators have demonstrated statisti-

cally significant associations between use of oral contraceptives and both morbidity and mortality from idiopathic cerebrovascular disease, in spite of small numbers of affected women in the samples. However, there is no evidence that the overall occurrence of death or morbidity from cerebrovascular disease has increased since the introduction of oral contraceptives. The most frequent serious complication associated with these agents is the development of peripheral venous thrombosis with or without pulmonary embolization and infarction which by virtue of its venous origin has been generally presumed to be induced by the effects of oral contraceptives on blood-clotting mechanisms. This subject has been studied by others and in a separate review by us (Dugdale and Masi (1)).

Occlusive diseases of the cerebral vasculature are emphasized here because they are the commonest arterial complications reported with the use of oral contraceptives. Also, these diseases permit consideration of intrinsic vascular alterations as a possible pathogenic mechanism in the development of vascular complications resulting from the use of oral contraceptives.

### Results of Review CEREBROVASCULAR OCCLUSIVE DISEASE AND ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES

From the time of the first report by Lorentz (2) of an unexplained cerebrovascular accident in a young woman using the oral contraceptives until the notable report by Walsh and associates (3), a total of 10 cases were described. Two of them were included as Cases 10 and 20 in the proceedings of

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The use of oral contraceptives has been associated with a variety of disorders including pulmonary embolism, depression, stroke, chorea, hypertension. To present what is regarded by him as a "clear and unbiased account" of the neurologic complications of oral contraceptives, Dr. Bickerstaff. Full text. Full text is available as a scanned copy of the original print version. Get a printable copy (PDF file) of the complete article (K), or click on a page. This is a PDF-only article. The first page of the PDF of this article appears below. PDF extract preview. Request Permissions. If you wish to reuse any or all of this. The 4 major categories of neurological disease associated with oral contraceptives do not allow for a definite etiologic correlation between the disease and the. Antibiotics, Vol. Mechanism of Action of Antimicrobial and Antitumor Agents. Edited by JOHN W. CORCORAN and FRED E. HAHN. Springer-Verlag, Neurological Complications of Oral Contraceptives [Edwin R. Bickerstaff] on za2grosafantazije.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Neurological Complications of Contraception Ethical Considerations Headache Women who decide against pregnancy and use oral contraceptives should be . Neurological complications of oral contraceptives. By Edwin R. Bickerstaff. Oxford university press, madison avenue, New York, NY , viii + Book Review. Neurological complications of oral contraceptives. By Edwin R. Bickerstaff. Oxford university press, madison avenue, New. Combined estrogen-progestin oral contraceptives (COCs) are a has led to a reduction in both side effects and cardiovascular complications. Oral contraceptives nearly double the risk of stroke, according to a review article in MedLink Neurology by three Loyola University Health. of oral contraceptives and the development of the first symptoms of MS The study will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology. Proc. roy. Soc. Med. Volume 69 March pesticides on reproduction is also reviewed; this chapter is especially relevant in view of the known effects of. Oral contraceptive pills are widely used and are generally safe and effective for many women. Headaches with focal neurologic symptoms.

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