

NEW RESEARCH ON THE LINK BETWEEN BIRTH CONTROL DRUGS AND BREAST CANCER

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In the last 20 years as a practicing breast cancer surgeon, I have diagnosed and treated ever increasing numbers of women, especially young women, with breast cancer. In the last 30 years, since my medical school graduation, there has been a dramatic 40% increase in the incidence of breast cancer. It is the only major cancer in the United States which has continued to increase.

Last year, according to the National Cancer Institute, the cumulative lifetime risk of breast cancer in the United States of America is now 1 in 7 women, up from 1 in 12 just 30 years ago. It is the women of my age group, those between 50 and 65, who had access to legalized abortion and birth control when they were of reproductive age, that account for most of this increase.

In June 2005, 21 scientists of the World Health Organization's International Agency of Research on Cancer met in France. After careful review of the world's literature, they declared that estrogen-progestin combination drugs used in the birth control pill and hormone replacement were carcinogenic not only for breast, but also for cervical and liver cancers as well. The risk of breast cancer remained for 10 years after stopping these estrogen-progestin drugs. Synthetic estrogens and progestins are potent sex steroid drugs. The birth control "Pill", the "Patch" and vaginal contraceptive ring (Nuva Ring) contain estrogen-progestin combination drugs.

At least 75% of all American and 85% of Canadian women have taken these drugs at sometime in their lives. In the Wall Street Journal, April 18, 2006, Tara Parker-Pope wrote an article entitled "In the Wake of Menopause Hormone Study, Women Start to Worry about the Pill". She noted the fact that birth control pills contain even higher doses of the same drug used in hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Millions of women stopped taking HRT in 2002 after a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported an increased incidence of breast cancer with these estrogen-progestin combination drugs.. When the progestin only "morning after pill" is not available to teens over the counter, they are advised to take 2, 4, and even 5 estrogen-progestin birth control pills at a time, to get the necessary amount of progestin to stop ovulation and implantation. These drugs are being given to teenagers when their breasts are still developing and are most susceptible to their carcinogenic effects.

The progestin only contraceptive injection, Depo-Provera, is also known to cause breast cancer.

It is only social justice that women be informed of the serious risks involved in taking birth control pills or using the patch, ring and Depo-Provera. This knowledge is especially relevant for the poor in developing countries who often do not have ready access to medical information available in libraries or on the internet. Even in the USA women often are not told of their cancer risk by the doctors prescribing these drugs. All governments have the obligation to protect women from the pharmaceutical industry that has been allowed to promote unsafe, untested drugs on unsuspecting women.

Husbands and wives need to understand their own anatomy and physiology and recognize that there is an excellent natural and healthy alternative to postpone or achieve pregnancy. The Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning is scientifically and statistically proven by numerous published studies in medical journals. It is equally important for the husband to protect his wife and respect her physiology to achieve or postpone pregnancy. Their combined fertility and future happiness can depend on this knowledge.

Sources of information supporting the carcinogenicity of estrogen-progestin drugs causing breast cancer

1. New England Journal of Medicine, January 19, 2006
"Estrogen carcinogenesis in breast cancer"
By James Yaeger PhD, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore MD
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jyaeger@jhsp.edu
2. Lancet Oncology, vol. 6 August 2005
Carinogenicity of combined oestrogen-progestagen contraceptives and menopausal treatment
Report from International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of World Health Organization
3. National Cancer Institute, Fact Sheet 3.13, Oral Contraceptives and Cancer Risk: Questions and Answers, May 4, 2006