

(d) *Ancillary Procedures.* A variety of simple and inexpensive tests are available that can be used in conjunction with the major mammalian tests cited above. These tests include studies of forward and reverse mutation in bacteria and fungi.

The total lack of experimental data in this area, with the exception of the few cited cytogenetic studies, make it imperative that a large-scale definitive study of potential mutagenic agents be initiated. It is absolutely essential that we know of any potential mutagenic effect of drugs, such as oral contraceptives, that are used on a widescale basis in healthy women of child-bearing age.

Because the possibility of teratogenic effects exists, the number of women inadvertently using the steroids during pregnancy should be determined. Even if the number of women using oral contraceptives while pregnant is minimal, it is still our responsibility to attempt to determine the least toxic formulation to further minimize any possible teratogenic effects.

The lack of data on mutagenicity of these compounds is attributable to the comparatively recent development of definitive methodologies in this field. The threat of a mutagen not only to our contemporary generations, but to future generations makes it imperative that we adequately evaluate these steroids for mutagenic effects.

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