

New England Journal of Medicine "The facts merely indicate that oral contraceptives have an impact on breast physiology and anatomy." When the woman starts taking the pill she feels the breast becoming engorged and they become tender. There is no question but that estrogen and progesterone affect breast tissue, this is how milk is made, how it is eventually formed and secreted. Obviously estrogen and progesterone affect breast tissue.

Mr. GORDON. Doctor, may I digress for a moment? I would like to quote from the top of page 98 of a book called "The Pill" by Morton Mintz:

Two years later Don Oberdorfer, then of the Washington Bureau of Knight Newspapers, reported the startling results of what the watching had produced 2 years later.

Dr. KISTNER. I did not understand the last part of the sentence.

Mr. GORDON. "Reported the startling"—that word is in quotation marks "of what the watching had produced 2 years later."

Dr. KISTNER. The "watching"?

Mr. DUFFY. Yes, you will get the meaning in just a moment. "He said the advisory committee had found in the FDA files 'only a single case of breast cancer of a woman taking oral contraceptives.'" You mentioned that.

Dr. KISTNER. Yes.

Mr. DUFFY. "Yet," Oberdorfer said, "the National Cancer Institute said 317 cases a year normally would be expected among each one of the women in the child-bearing age group. On this purely statistical basis that 3.8 million women known to be taking oral contraceptives would have developed at least 1,200 cases of breast cancer last year," Oberdorfer said in a story in January 1967. "Yet the FDA had heard of only one."

Could this be due to the inadequacy of the reporting system?

Dr. KISTNER. Well, in the first place, the majority of the women who take the pill are not in the median age group for cancer of the breast. Cancer of the breast occurs in the premenopausal female in her 50's and in another group in the postmenopausal group. The majority of the pill users are in a much younger group so, therefore, one would not expect to find a high incidence of cancer of the breast in the younger individuals.

Second, one might assume or one might—

Mr. GORDON. This mentions child-bearing age group.

Dr. KISTNER. I beg your pardon.

Mr. GORDON. This mentions child-bearing age group.

Dr. KISTNER. He says there should be that number?

Mr. GORDON. Yes, that is right.

Dr. KISTNER. Well, if you take child-bearing age group up until the age of 49 I suppose one would have to consider that and there should have been more but I would like to add one other point: That if a patient who is under scrutiny or examination by her physician because she is taking the pill, has a lump in the breast discovered, it might be a fibrocystic disease, it might be a premalignant lesion, that physician, I am certain, will take her to the operating room and remove the lump. So that a lump that might eventually become