

RESULTS

The 838 women used norethynodrel for 1 to 62 treatment cycles, from 1 to 54 months (4½ years). There were a total of 15,150 treatment cycles or 1,165 woman years of experience (Table II). While 53 per cent of all users discontinued the method for a variety of reasons (Table III) only 147 (17.5 per cent) did so for reasons inherent in the method, or one such discontinuance in 8 woman years of use. The other reasons given, such as moving, separation, or husband's objection appear unrelated to acceptability.

The reasons for withdrawal of the 443 patients are given in table III. Ninety-nine patients were sterilized. We lost 115 patients who moved somewhere else on the island or to the continental United States. Nine are in the menopausal period and 10 have died. Six of the latter were victims of the Humacao flood, one died of severe burns, two died of "heart attacks," and one of subarachnoid hemorrhage. However, 42 patients who dropped out for various reasons (the most common being the absence of the husband in the United States) have restarted. Thirteen of these have discontinued for the second time.

The greatest number of withdrawals, one sixth of all users, was due to unpleasant side effects. One fourth of the patients discontinuing did so in the first 5 cycles (Table IV). Several patients who withdrew for reactions after 30 or more cycles appear to be approaching the menopause. Vaginal cytology studies of these patients are to be made more closely to try to determine whether there is any estrogen deficiency.

TABLE III.—REPORTED REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING NORETHYNODREL

Reasons	Number of persons reporting each reason	Percent of all users
Inherent in the individual.....	306	36.6
Moved away (53 to New York City).....	66	8.0
Persons who have not returned—living too far to revisit.....	49	5.8
Separated or widowed, (37 husbands to United States).....	64	7.6
Sterilized ¹	32	3.8
Found to be pregnant.....	25	3.0
Pregnant when started medication.....	12	
Pregnant because of incorrect use.....	13	
To get pregnant.....	37	4.4
Menopause.....	9	1.0
Died (6 flood victims).....	10	1.3
Medical reasons (concurrent illness).....	8	1.0
Inability to follow instructions.....	6	.7
Inherent in the community.....	83	9.9
Frightened by rumors.....	36	4.3
Difficulty in securing supplies (working, children sick).....	11	1.3
Advice of private physician (usually because of some "reaction").....	16	1.9
Religious aversion.....	13	1.6
Husband opposed to practice.....	7	.8
Inherent in method.....	147	17.5
Unpleasant side effects ²	139	16.6
Tired of taking pills (1 was sterilized and 2 are again using pills).....	3	.3
Not interested.....	5	.6
Totals:		
Reasons given.....	536	
Persons discontinuing.....	443	53.0

¹ 14 of these persons, originally planning to be sterilized, were persuaded to use norethynodrel in order that the effect of medication could be determined through ovarian biopsies during the salpingectomy operation. Another 67 withdrew for other reasons and became pregnant and had a subsequent sterilization post partum. 7 vasectomies were performed. In all 99 participants have been sterilized.

² There were 121 patients who mentioned side effects as the only reason for discontinuing norethynodrel. There were 18 others who mentioned side effects as one of several reasons, such as advice of private physician, husband opposed, or frightened by rumors. The 121 represents 14 percent of all users.