(2) It is regrettable that no effective system of reporting such possible complications is in operation to give at least a fairly accurate idea of the number of cases occurring over a large population, in a prospective rather than retrospective sense.

The strokes themselves usually involve arteries rather than veins, though both may be affected. They do not seem to require pre-existing disease of the arteries, such as arteriosclerosis, to develop, though such may contribute, especially in the older women.

(4) The most acceptable evidence at present suggests that the strokes related to taking "The Pill" are brought about either by changes in the chemical and enzymatic composition of the blood, or by intracellular changes in the vessel walls, or possibly by both.

(5) Since the actual incidence of such strokes is not known, mortality cannot be estimated accurately. A rough estimate based on published cases suggests about 15%.

(6) As far as can be estimated at present, the prognosis for a good or virtually complete recovery in the survivors of a stroke is about fifty percent or slightly better.

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