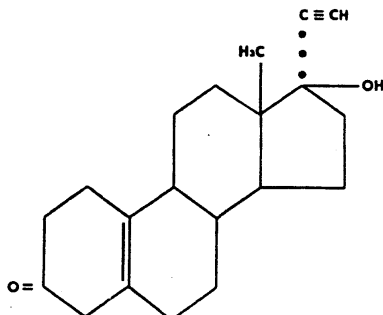


CHEMISTRY

ENOVID, brand of norethynodrel with mestranol, is composed principally of 17 α -ethynyl-17-hydroxy-5(10)-estren-3-one; it may be represented structurally as follows:



Enovid-E tablets contain 2.5 mg. of norethynodrel and 0.1 mg. of mestranol.

HUMAN PHARMACOLOGY

ACTION ON THE ENDOMETRIUM. When Enovid is given from the fifth through the twenty-fourth day of the cycle to normal or to anovulatory women or to those with an inadequate secretory phase (providing adequate estrogen is secreted) a different endometrial picture will be found. Biopsy specimens of such endometria, taken on the twentieth to the twenty-second day of the cycle, will reveal a definite stromal and vascular development with sparse glands which show varying stages of secretory exhaustion. This has been well described⁵⁶ by Rock, García and Pincus. Such an endometrium is similar to that present in early pregnancy and may be termed a pseudodecidual type.

From a study of biopsy specimens taken between the fifth and twenty-fifth day after the administration of Enovid, Pincus⁵⁷ has found that the progress of endometrial development just described does occur. Those taken from normal women between the fourth and tenth days of medication reveal a typical succession of secretory phase development. A definite development of stromal tissue and increased vascularity with a relative decrease in the number of glands occur