

that the risks of the medication as far as thromboembolism is concerned is considerably greater in the user compared to the nonuser. But when you look at the triglyceroid values and the lipid values, and when you see much abnormalities, these are associated in some curious way with increased incidence of clotting, so that putting the two together, I think it is a reasonable case, but it cannot be proved, and this I think underlines the great difficulty we have with the contraceptives, that what harm they may do may never in fact be proved, and I make this quite clear in my statement I think on page 3.

Now carrying on, I mention other aspects concerned with the contraceptive medication. I mention, for example, that in Great Britain we are in no doubt that these medications increase the incidence of thromboembolism and thrombotic disorders, and that they bring these about in a way which is not quite clear, but that they affect clotting mechanisms and the behavior of certain important blood particles such as the blood platelets, but I cannot continue with this theme at length, because first of all it is complex, and second, we are running out of time.

On page 22 I refer to the production of high blood pressure which Dr. Laragh, who discovered the incidence of it in the first place, described yesterday.

Now, sir, you asked me the question, "What could these changes mean?" They could mean a lot. They do not necessarily mean a lot. We do not know. We must wait and see. But there is an implication, and the implication is this.

These changes in glucose tolerance and lipid metabolism are commonly found in users of contraceptives. I have given you some idea—

Senator NELSON. You mean in the use of the pill?

Dr. WYNN. Oral contraceptives. Now, when you look at the development of accelerated atherosclerosis, that is to say the development of the hardening of the arteries which occurs in younger people under the age of 50, the literature is enormous on the subject, and I have produced a summary of it for you which I would like to submit and have included in the record of over 70 references taken from the literature, produced in the last 3 years.

It is by no means exhaustive. But the references are to the association between abnormal glucose metabolism, abnormal insulin levels, and abnormal blood lipid or blood fat levels, and the accelerated development of atherosclerosis.

Now I can do no more than this. I can do no more than produce evidence. I cannot produce for you evidence that this abnormality is occurring in women taking oral contraceptives, and the reason that I cannot produce the evidence is that not enough time has elapsed.

We have already heard from other people testifying in relation to cancer that we may have to wait 10 or 20 years before we can sit here and definitely pronounce on the subject, but I do want to say that one aspect of the development of coronary disease and stroke is the abnormal clotting which occurs in the blood.

The hardening of the arteries is only one side of the picture. What causes the arteries to become obstructed is the development of the clot on these damaged arteries. Now, the clotting abnormality already has