

Many epidemiologists have come to the conclusion that the appropriate study for such problems is the so-called retrospective or case control study in which one gets samples of women with the condition of interest, clotting disorders, for example, and control women, and determines the contraceptive histories. This type of study has made a very valuable contribution to our understanding of the frequency of some of these rare diseases in oral contraceptive users.

Senator McINTYRE. I understand what you are saying is that retrospective studies can be of very great significance, too, in helping to solve the problem.

Dr. SEIGEL. Our basic understanding today of the thromboembolic disorders and their relationship to oral contraceptives is through such retrospective studies.

Senator McINTYRE. Thank you very much.

Dr. Corfman, do you think the first findings from the Kaiser project which you expect this year will shed any new light on the many unanswered questions concerning the effects of the oral contraceptives which have been pointed up in these hearings and elsewhere?

Dr. CORFMAN. We certainly expect that they will.

Senator McINTYRE. How long do you think it will be before we can expect suggestive if not definite results from the New York and Los Angeles studies of the relationship of oral contraceptive use to cervical cancer?

Dr. CORFMAN. The Los Angeles study is a 4-year project, and it is in its third year. We expect answers within a year.

Senator McINTYRE. Within a year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator NELSON. Senator Dole?

Senator DOLE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just for my own information, this may have been covered earlier in the hearing, but the unannounced questions from the floor a few moments ago by some of the ladies present did raise a question, and also in their press release, why isn't there a male pill. Will you comment on that? Is there research in this area or is it a valid question at all?

Dr. CORFMAN. Yes, I thought many of the questions the young women posed were valid and important.

We certainly have interest in male contraceptives. Other agencies interested in contraceptive development also wish to develop a modern male method. We have every reason to believe that such methods would be used. Research is underway, but I anticipate no new methods on the market for several years.

Senator DOLE. With reference to Dr. Wynn's testimony yesterday, as reported today in the press, his comments concerning an unpublished British study which demonstrates a significant increase in coronary heart disease in women under the age of 45 who have taken birth control pills, do you have any knowledge concerning this study?

Dr. CORFMAN. Nothing more, Senator Dole, than what I heard yesterday.

Senator DOLE. You are not familiar with the study?

Dr. CORFMAN. No, I am not.

Senator DOLE. You have not had a chance to review the study?

Dr. CORFMAN. No, I have not. The information is not available.