

Another Cleveland practitioner has a new worry. "I don't like the medical-legal aspects of this thing," he says. "This is the thing that's going to catch up with all of us." This physician foresees a growing number of malpractice suits from women who suffer serious illnesses. "And they're apt to find a lay jury pretty sympathetic," he says.

Some physicians prescribing the pill now limit prescriptions to six months. Then they require the woman to stop taking the pill for a monthly cycle or more. "By making the patient go off the pill for a month, you allow normal body processes to return to an undepressed state for a while," says Dr. John Isaacs, a Skokie, Ill., physician. "It's like starting afresh. The prolonged use of any drug without interruption is more dangerous than using it with periodic interruptions."

The minority of physicians who have staunchly opposed use of the pill since its introduction are more firm than ever now in their opposition. "I'm switching women from the pill when I can," says a doctor in Cleveland, "and the adverse publicity has made it easier."

There have been other related developments. The Planned Parenthood Center in Pittsburgh reports an increasing number of calls inquiring about vasectomy. This is a relatively simple operation for male sterilization in which sperm ducts are closed off.

Some druggists are hurrying to broaden their inventories of birth-control devices. For instance, Speices Drug Store in Chagrin Falls Ohio, discontinued the sale of diaphragms two years ago, for lack of customer interest. Now the store stocks them again.

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PREGNANCIES FOLLOW BIRTH PILL PUBLICITY

(By Jane E. Brody)

Doctors across the country say they are beginning to see the first round of unwanted pregnancies among women who stopped using birth control pills after adverse publicity in the last few months.

"I'm now looking for some one to abort a 14-year-old who panicked," said a New York obstetrician who specializes in family planning among the poor.

Another New York physician, a Park Avenue obstetrician, said a patient of his who dropped the pill after reading a "scare report" is in London this weekend to get an abortion.

In California, Dr. R. Elgin Orcutt, president of the San Francisco Planned Parenthood Association, reports that "many are coming in for therapeutic abortions, many are going to England and many others are getting criminal abortions."

These women, who stopped the pill in a panic and are now trying to deal with an unwanted pregnancy, are experiencing "the most serious side effect," Dr. Orcutt remarked.

Dr. Orcutt and about a score of other birth control experts interviewed last week said that they expect the number of unwanted pregnancies to soar in the next few weeks and months among women who have recently given up the pill in favor of less effective contraceptive methods and, in some cases, no contraception at all.

"We regularly see a crop of unwanted pregnancies—a disturbing number of them—after each batch of bad publicity," commented Dr. Selig Neubardt, a New Rochelle obstetrician who is the author of "A Concept of Contraception," a popular book on family planning.

A Gallup poll taken during the first week of this month for Newsweek magazine, revealed that largely because of recent reports of suspected health hazards, 18 per cent of women have stopped taking the pill and 23 per cent more said that they were giving serious consideration to doing so.

Most of the adverse reports on the pill grew out of the Senate hearings on oral contraceptives held last month by the monopoly subcommittee of Senator Gaylord Nelson, Democrat of Wisconsin.

Testimony at the hearings linked the pill to a long list of disorders, including blood clots, strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer and arthritis.