

The monilial vulvovaginal infections have been very difficult to clear in many patients as long as they continue the pills. The monilial infections seem to be more frequent in my experience among patients taking the combination type pills than among those using the sequential type. Either type of pill should be prescribed with caution if a patient has an existing medical disease, such as diabetes mellitus or a cardiac lesion requiring continuous chemotherapy, which is more favorable for the development of a monilial infection.

Other types of vulvovaginal infections may be associated with the pills. The most frequent of these is a trichomoniasis. The trichomonas infections have not been a significant problem, however, because of the effectiveness of metronidazole (Flagyl) in their treatment. Occasional non-specific types of vaginal infections may be associated with the pills. The non-specific infections in this study have cleared if the pills were omitted.

The pseudodecidual reactions of the cervix have been encountered very frequently with the combination type of pills and somewhat less frequently with the sequential type. At times the gross appearance of the lesion may be disturbing from the standpoint of a malignancy. The maintenance of the cytologic changes at the external os of the cervix suggests on a theoretical basis that it might predispose the area for a later malignant change. The theoretical dangers are probably more than offset by the close observation given patients who are taking the pills. The recent "Survey of Experience with Oral Contraceptive Pills" by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in October 1967 reported that 98.9 percent of the patients on the pills were being re-examined at least once a year.

It is advisable to prescribe the pills cautiously to patients with leiomyomas of the uterus. If the leiomyomas enlarge or become symptomatic, the pills should be omitted. The possible relationship of endocervical polyps and other pelvic pathology to the pills should be remembered. If abnormalities occur, consideration should be given to the omission of the pills.

Vascular accidents in association with contraceptive pills have been reported with relative rarity. Two patients in this study had serious vascular accidents and two had less serious ones. The frequency is disturbing.

The only ophthalmologic complication has been the one with vitreous bodies in the posterior chamber of the eyes. It is slowly clearing since the pills were omitted but it has been a considerable problem for the patient so far.

*General suggestions:* The emotional or psychiatric changes seen in some of the patients of this report suggest that additional study should be given to such complications. If the patients reported here were willing to discuss their problems without any invitation to do, one is concerned regarding other patients who may not have discussed similar problems. It is disturbing to consider the patients on the pills whose depression may have ended in suicide and/or homicide with no recognition of any association with the contraceptive pills. Investigations would seem advisable to determine the possibility of such a correlation. Personality changes could be a factor in other conditions such as automobile accidents and divorces. Investigations are desirable to determine the possible correlation of the contraceptive pills with the individuals involved in these circumstances.

This report includes 16 complications which should be classified as major ones associated with the contraceptive pills (Table VIII). Through the years the author has attempted to keep accurate records on his patients. A system of I.B.M. punch cards has been used during his practice to analyze and cross-index the records of the gynecologic and of the obstetric patients. The 16 major complications associated with the contraceptive pills are considerably more numerous than have been encountered from all of the other medications combined which have been prescribed during the time of the report. In considering the complications of the pills it is also possible that additional problems may develop in these and in other patients from as yet unrecognized abnormalities produced by altered anterior pituitary gland functions or by other endocrine or systemic changes.

If satisfactory contraceptive methods are available which do not carry the possible risks of the contraceptive pills, they deserve consideration. If other methods of contraception are not available or acceptable for the patient, the pills are valuable contraceptives, especially if given under careful medical supervision. The patients for whom the pills may be the contraceptive method