

6. A particularly unwarranted threat to the young woman using The Pill to postpone initiation of a family is post-Pill sterility. (*Supra Sterility*). There is no greater and more ironic retribution nature exacts than to rob The Pill user of the gift of motherhood she gratuitously takes for granted.

7. Finally, under *Pulmonary Embolism*, "The gross inadequacy of physician reporting" of adverse reactions to The Pill is reaffirmed (*CF* 7:185 Spring 1968). This can only mean one thing: that the actual damage The Pill is causing in the most active years of a woman's life is considerably worse than the Samplers on The Pill indicate.

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Editor's Comment:

The scientific papers abstracted above in the *Fourth Sampler* testify anew to the inadequacy of the original studies sponsored by the manufacturers of The Pill to detect and uncover the medical hazards of The Pill; and the innocence of its discoverers in promoting The Pill as "natural and physiological." Rather than being natural and physiologic, these scientific articles show that, on the contrary, The Pill produces 1.) significant abnormalities of the intermediate metabolism of glucose in brain and of acetate in the aorta in vivo, 2.) abnormality in platelet behavior in the direction of thrombus formation, 3.) alteration of the electric activity of the brain as registered by the encephalogram, 4.) increased pathological changes in uterine cervical cells and tissue, 5.) chromosomal damage resulting in subsequent spontaneous abortions, 6.) a marked increase in the concentration of serum copper, 7.) changes in monoamine oxidase metabolism associated with depression and loss of libido ranging from 7 to 28% in Pill users, 8.) abnormal alterations in carbohydrate metabolism necessitating special precautions for women with a family history of diabetes or who have a diabetic prednisone glucose tolerance test, 9.) green plasma, an abnormality which is also found in women with rheumatoid arthritis, 10.) a high incidence of endometrial arteriolar development associated with hypertension and cerebral thrombosis, 11.) a significant lowering of the cholesterol content of menstrual discharge, 12.) a striking increase in the concentration of plasma angiotensinogen and plasma renin each of which are associated causally with hypertension, 13.) persistent weight gain, 14.) suppression of immune factors, 15.) suppression of lactation even with a new low-dose oral contraceptive, 16.) an increase in psychiatric pathology, 17.) amenorrhea and sterility and 18.) thromboembolic disease and deaths initiated by thrombi in a variety of blood vessels in the body.

Can there be any remaining doubts that the steroid components of The Pill have a pharmacologic effect that far exceeds the simplistic and stubborn belief of the discoverers and promoters of The Pill who limited the significant effects of The Pill to its contraceptive, sterilizing and abortifacient action? It would seem that they should have known better. They could have listened, for instance, to the prophetic words of Dr. Alan Guttmacher, President of Planned Parenthood-World Population, who, in 1959—one year before The Pill was marketed—commented on the essential dangers of the birth control pills:

"The steroid pills violate a general medical principle. It is deemed safer to affect a target organ, in this case the uterus, tubes, or ovaries, directly, rather than to tinker with that affect through another organ, particularly when that organ is as important and complex as the pituitary gland. This master gland produces more than a dozen other chemicals and hormones, each regulating a vital body process, such as thyroid activity, water metabolism, and body growth." (*Babies By Choice Or By Chance*, Doubleday & Co. pp. 66-67).

Unfortunately, not even Dr. Guttmacher heeded his basic clinical and physiological insight. In his ardent pursuit of population control even he permitted extra-medical considerations to dull his medical acumen. In doing so, he relinquished his professional obligation to individual patients not to violate "the medical maxim *primum non nocere* [first do no harm]." (*see Common Problems*).

Markush's paper (*see Thromboembolic Deaths*), which confirms, in American women, the increased incidence of thromboembolic deaths among Pill users reported by the English, should not go unnoticed. It highlights the weakness of the FDA in capitulating to the demands of drug manufacturers that the new warnings on thromboembolism in Pill users contain a modifying paragraph stating (as if the English were a peculiar species physiologically) that the