

G. Miscellaneous Uses

The value of oral contraceptives in the treatment of conditions such as menopausal syndrome, acne, chronic vulvar infections, psychotic and emotional disorders could not be ascertained at present because of the preliminary nature of the available reports.

Summary

The efficacy of the older progestational agents in fertility control is exceptional and approaches unity. The more recently introduced sequential preparations are also highly effective in reducing the incidence of pregnancies although with not

quite the same degree of certainty as the progestational compounds. Regarding other uses, the efficacy is less certain. Most studies lack control and followup data and, consequently, it is difficult to determine whether drug treatment resulted in a significant departure from the course expected from the natural history of these frequently self-limiting disorders. Consistently the phenomenon "Cyclic withdrawal bleeding" is confused with menstrual period which is unwarranted.

Pelvic endometriosis and hypermenorrhea, however, represent notable exceptions. In these disorders, prolonged therapy appears to offer excellent palliation and an occasional cure.