**Clinical Data on 20 Cases of Vascular Lesions Associated With Oral Contraceptives**

| Case No. | Age | Type of Antiovulant | Indications for Antiovulant | Time on Antiovulant | Other Medications | Initial Symptoms | Interval From Symptoms to Death |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 26 | Norethynodrel and mestranol | Dysmenorrhea | 3½ mo | ... | Pain in shoulder | 5 days |
| 2 | 27 | | Dysmenorrhea | 13 mo | Cortisone | Dyspnea | 10 days |
| 3 | 23 | | Contraception | 37 days | ... | Apprehension, syncope, tachycardia | 3 days |
| 4 | 41 | | Contraception | 5½ mo | Thyroid extract, tranquilizer | Pain in leg | 3 wk |
| 5 | 40 | | Menorrhagia | 2 mo | ... | Dyspnea, syncope, cold sweats | 7 days |
| 6 | 36 | | ... | 12 mo | ... | Blindness, right eye | ... |
| 7 | 34 | | ... | 2 mo | ... | Pain in leg | 5 days |
| 8 | 18 | Mestranol and norethindrone | ... | ... | Anorexiant, tranquilizer | Died unexpectedly at home | ... |
| 9 | 25 | | ... | ... | ... | Chest pain | 5 days |
| 10 | 33 | | Contraception | 6 mo | ... | Died unexpectedly at home | ... |
| 11 | 24 | | Contraception | 6 wk | ... | Dyspnea, syncope, palpitation | 3 days |
| 12 | 24 | | ... | 4½ mo | ... | Chest pain | 9 days |
| 13 | 22 | | Contraception | 3 mo | Tranquilizer | Chest pain, leg pain, dyspnea | 5 hr |
| 14 | 27 | Mestranol and norethindrone | Contraception | 6 wk | Anorexiant | Syncope, abdominal pain | 7 days |
| 15 | 20 | Mestranol and chlormadinone | Irregular menses | 3 mo | ... | Rectal pain | 12 days |
| 16 | 41 | Mestranol and ethynodiol | Contraception | 71 days | Thyroid extract | Abdominal pain | 11 days |
| 17 | 26 | Norethindrone and ethinyl estradiol | Contraception | 9 mo | Anorexiant | Chest pains, dyspnea | 1 day |
| 18 | 29 | Type unstated | Dysmenorrhea | 12 mo | Tranquilizer | Swelling abdomen (ascites) | 2 mo |
| 19 | 30 | | Contraception | ... | Tranquilizer | Chest pains | 3 wk |
| 20 | 34 | | ... | ... | ... | Chest pains, dyspnea | 7 days |

three; irregular periods in one; and menorrhagia in one. The duration of oral contraceptive medication ranged from five weeks to 13 months, and averaged five months. Other drugs were being taken by nine of these patients, including tranquilizers, anorexiants, and thyroid extract. One patient was receiving cortisone acetate for ulcerative colitis.

Symptoms associated with the terminal episode varied. Pain was the most frequent, occurring in the chest in six, in the leg in three, in the abdomen in two, and in the rectum and shoulder in one patient each. Dyspnea was noted in six patients, syncope in four. Tachycardia, apprehension, palpitation, sudden blindness, and cold sweats were each described in a single instance. Ascites was the initial finding in one patient with hepatic vein thrombosis (Budd-Chiari syndrome).

Most patients were taking a combination type preparation, but a sequential product was used by two. The estrogenic component in 16 cases was mestranol and in one case was ethinyl estradiol. The progestins included norethynodrel, norethindrone, chlormadinone acetate, and ethynodiol diacetate. All of these are 19-nortestosterone compounds except chlormadinone (6-chloro-progesterone [17 α] acetate). In terms of the relative effect of the constituents as evaluated by Dickey and Dorr,[3] most agents used were of intermediate estrogenic and progestational effect, but five patients received products with strong progestational effect and weak estrogenic effect, and the sequential agents