

ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND THROMBOEMBOLISM

468, and parts of 467.1 and 467.2. However, less than 13 per cent of 1965 US deaths in the broad 460-8 group of women in both the 15-44 and 45-64 age groups were in the irrelevant categories. The largest proportion of 460-8 deaths—48 per cent in both 15-44 and 45-64-year-old women—was from pulmonary embolism and infarction, category 465.

Of the individual ICD categories that involve stroke, only 332 is included in this report. This category represents only 6 per cent of the 1965 stroke deaths (ICD 330.4) of women in the 15-44 age group and 20 per cent of those in the 45-64 age group. Though 331 is the ICD category to which "cerebrovascular accident" is coded, a large part of this category nevertheless consists of nonthrombotic diagnoses, and consequently is not included.⁷

For the years in this report prior to 1958, the Sixth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases was used in coding causes of death; since 1958, the Seventh Revision has been in use. The effect of this change is negligible for the causes covered in this report. Its effect is small in relation to the amount of variability in the trends; furthermore, it causes only a single break in the curves, i.e., in 1958. Table 4 presents available ratios of the number of deaths in specific categories according to the Seventh Revision, divided by the comparable number coded by the Sixth Revision.⁸ Most of the ratios are close to 1.00.

The following steps were used to determine the relative change in mortality since 1961 for women in each five-year age group between ages 15 and 64, both

Table 1—Seventh Revision International Classification of Diseases Categories Included in Report; numbers of US 1965 deaths by broad age and sex groups

ICD No.	ICD Title	Numbers of US deaths in 1965			
		Age 15-44		Age 45-64	
		Men	Women	Men	Women
I. 332	Cerebral embolism and thrombosis	226	168	4,130	2,811
II. 341	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of intracranial venous sinuses	2	4	6	9
III. 420	Arteriosclerotic heart disease, including coronary disease	11,873	2,616	10,972	5,346
IV. 454	Arterial embolism and thrombosis	30	33	240	119
V. 460-8	Diseases of veins and other diseases of circulatory system	421	587	1,971	1,452
A. 460	Varicose veins of lower extremities	4	15	28	55
B. 461	Hemorrhoids	6	3	9	5
C. 462	Varicose veins of other specified sites	30	9	111	37
D. 463	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities	48	60	203	185
E. 464	Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other sites	34	69	182	147
F. 465	Pulmonary embolism and infarction	200	279	757	693
G. 466	Other venous embolism and thrombosis	72	117	342	244
H. 467	Other diseases of circulatory system	24	35	138	79
I. 468	Certain diseases of lymph nodes and lymph channels	3	0	2	7
VI. 570.2	Mesenteric infarction	41	45	313	250