

MENSTRUAL HISTORIES

2,652/11, 711 (22.5 percent) reported *irregular* menses prior to taking norethynodrel w/mestranol; none had *similar* irregular menses while on the medication, but:

22.4 percent reported spotting at least once,

6.6 percent reported breakthrough bleeding at least once, and

7.1 percent reported no withdrawal bleeding at least once during the first 2 years of medication.

	Period of use in percent		
	25 to 30 months	31 to 36 months	37 to 42 months
Spotting.....	15.6	14.9	14.7
Breakthrough bleeding.....	4.1	4.1	4.4
No withdrawal bleeding.....	4.9	5.1	4.4

Conclusion: Among women who continue to use this type of oral contraceptive beyond 2 years, approximately 15 percent can expect to have some spotting, about 4 percent some breakthrough bleeding, and about 5 percent some "amenorrheic periods".