



spotlight on health

National Survey Shows Women Want New Choices In Oral Contraception—Yasmin Is A New Option

(NAPSA)—More than 18 million women in this country use one of the more than 40 oral contraceptives available today. Yet, a new national survey of U.S. women aged 18-45 commissioned by the National Women's Health Resource Center (NWHRC) showed that nearly half (47 percent) of women who have used birth control pills in the past five years were dissatisfied enough to discontinue use or switch brands. In fact, the majority of women stopped using "the Pill" or switched because of dissatisfaction with side effects.

"Nearly 700,000 unintended pregnancies occur each year in this country because women stop taking their birth control pills," said Amy R. Niles, Executive Director of the NWHRC. "The results of our survey show that women are dissatisfied with the choices currently available to them. That being the case, an oral contraceptive that makes birth control more acceptable for more women in this country is not only important, but necessary progress."

Yasmin[®] (drospirenone and ethinyl estradiol), a new low dose, monophasic oral contraceptive, is now available by prescription for the first time to U.S. women. Yasmin was approved by the FDA on May 11. Large-scale clinical trials found that Yasmin offers excellent cycle control with a low rate of spotting and breakthrough bleeding. Further, Yasmin proved more than 99 percent effective in preventing pregnancy. Women who participated in clinical studies tolerated Yasmin very well, with only six percent discontinuing use due to side effects.

Yasmin is the only birth control pill to contain the unique progestin, drospirenone. Drospirenone influences the water and salt balance in the body. It may also increase potassium levels. Women who have conditions that may also increase potassium should therefore not take Yasmin. These condi-

Most Common Side Effects Of The Pill:

- Moodiness
- Irritability
- Water retention and/or bloating
- Acne
- Breast tenderness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Bleeding/spotting



tions include kidney, liver and adrenal disease. If a woman has one of these conditions and takes Yasmin, it could lead to serious heart and health problems. Women taking drugs that could increase potassium should make their health care provider aware of this use before taking Yasmin.

Yasmin also has antiandrogenic activity and works by blocking the action of androgens at the receptor sites.

Drugs that may increase serum potassium when used on a daily long-term basis to treat chronic conditions or diseases include ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor antagonists, potassium-sparing diuretics, heparin, aldosterone antagonists and NSAIDs (i.e., daily use for arthritis).

Oral contraceptives (OCs) are not appropriate for all patients, and serious as well as minor side effects have been reported with the use of all OCs. OCs do not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases. Women who use oral contraceptives are strongly advised not to smoke.

If you would like to learn more about Yasmin, talk to your doctor, visit www.Yasmin.com or call the toll-free number 866-Yasmin1 (927-6461) to receive a complimentary, informational product brochure by mail.