

Hormonal contraception and risk of breast cancer: a critical look

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Today health professionals are not only required to know medicine, but scientific reading, interpretation, and communication of new data. The new information about contraception and hormonal therapies must be analyzed by gynecologists to determine whether or not the new data are applicable to their patients and if it has an impact on their health. Recently a new study of hormonal contraceptives and the risk of breast cancer was published. In this study, the investigators found an elevation of the relative risk of breast cancers on the users versus the nonusers of hormonal contraception. After analyzing the publication and other data available, it is our opinion that it is a very low increase of the risk and its impact should be evaluated case by case, not forgetting to take into account the numerous beneficial effects that hormonal contraception have.