

Contraception for the 21st century – beyond fertility control

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Declaration of interests

Medical Advisory Council Executive and member of the British Menopause Society.

Trustee and medical advisor to the National Association of Premenstrual Syndrome

Member of the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine, Previous Exec and Trustee

Previous Exec Treasurer and Trustee of the British Society of Psychological Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Andrology

Member of the British Fertility Society

Sponsorship

2001-4

funding for travel from Galen and Ferring

Salary payment to run a trial from Servier

2019

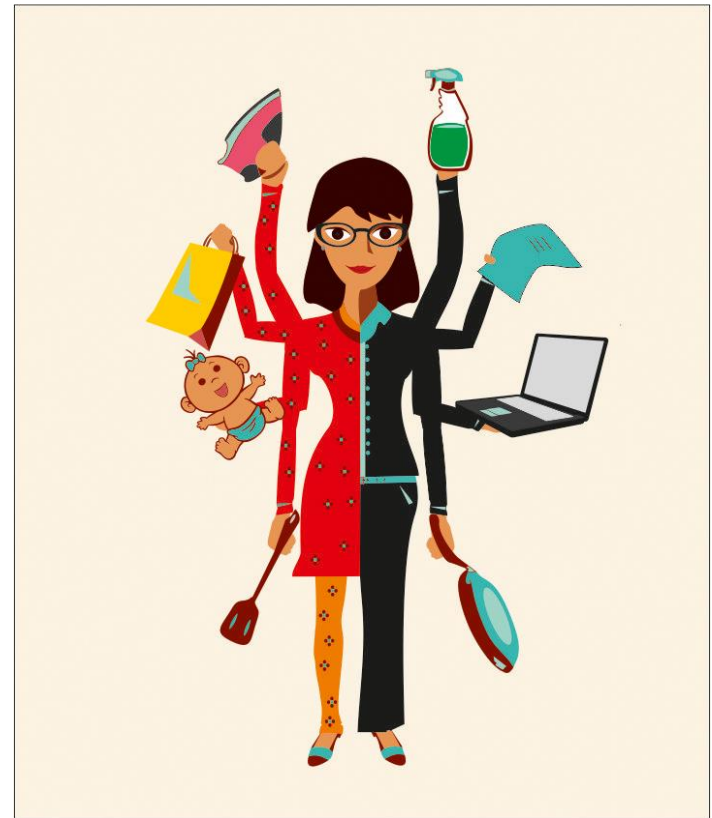
consultant for Shionogi

2020-1 Sponsorship from Besins and Gideon Richter

Why is contraception important?

Control

- of fertility
- of cycle
- of flow
- of PMS
- of peri-menopause



Ideal contraception

Effective
Reversible
Doesn't interfere sex
No side effects
Fully protective STDs
Additional benefits



Not user dependant

Minimal input HCP

Contraindications

Risks

Duration

Cost



Methods of Contraception

Hormonal

Combined O&P

- Pill
- Patch
- Ring



Progestogen-only

- Pill
- Injectable
- Sub-dermal implant
- Intrauterine system

Emergency

- Progestogen
- Ulipristal acetate

Non-hormonal

Copper intrauterine device

Condom

Diaphragms and caps

Natural methods

Sterilization

- Male
- Female

FSRH UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC 2016, amended 2019)

RISK	UKMEC DEFINITION OF CATEGORY
Category 1	A condition for which there is no restriction for the use of the method
Category 2	A condition where the advantages of using the method generally outweigh the theoretical or proven risks
Category 3	A condition where the theoretical or proven risks usually outweigh the advantages of using the method. The provision of a method requires expert clinical judgement and/or referral to a specialist contraceptive provider, since use of the method is not usually recommended unless other more appropriate methods are not available or not acceptable
Category 4	A condition which represents an unacceptable health risk if the method is used

Efficacy

pregnancy in first year of use

Method	Chance of pregnancy	Typical use (%)	Perfect use (%)
No Method	21 in 25	85	85
Fertility awareness	1 in 4	24	0.5
Female diaphragm	1 in 8	12	6
Male condom	1 in 5.5	18	2
Combined hormonal	1 in 11	9	0.3
Progestogen only pill	1 in 11	9	0.3
Injectable Progestogen	1 in 16	6	0.2
Cu - IUCD	1 in 120	0.8	0.6
LNG - IUS	1 in 500	0.2	0.2
Progestogen Implant	1 in 2000	0.05	0.05
Female Sterilisation	1 in 200	0.5	0.5
Vasectomy	1 in 750	0.15	0.1

Natural methods *FSRH 2015*



Types

Coitus interruptus

Lactational Amenorrhea

Temperature

Cervical mucus

(Billings method)

Dates (Rhythm Method)

Persona

Apps



Pros and cons

User dependent

In control of body

No chemicals / hormones

No side effects (pregnancy!)

CI – Irregular cycles

Barrier Methods



FSRH 2012

Types

Condom – male / female *Femidom*

Diaphragm – *Caya*

Cap – *Femcap*

Dental Dam

Sponge - *Today*

Spermicide

Inform only condoms protect partially re STDs

Latex = non-latex efficacy

Must use spermicide with cap/diaphragm

Nonoxyl 9 not recommended

Use water based lubricants

Lubricants recommended – external to condom only

Educate couple – use, failure rate, factors affecting efficacy and when extra required



Diaphragm



Need to teach insertion/removal

Insert dome facing down

Sits behind pubic symphysis to posterior fornix

Spermicide both sides

Leave for at least 6 hrs post coitus

Review 1 week 3/12 1 year

Change size postpartum and weight changes

Caya one size 2014

Arcing spring Coil spring both discontinued

Cervical cap



Femcap 3 sizes

Suction over the cervix

Spermicide

Teach fitting technique

Leave 8hrs to 3/7 post coitus

Dumas / Vimule discontinued

FSRH 2015

Sterilisation

Male

Irreversible

Failure rate 1 in 2000

Local anaesthetic

Quick and easy

Can now be min invasive

Wait to ensure SA clear

FSRH 2014

Female

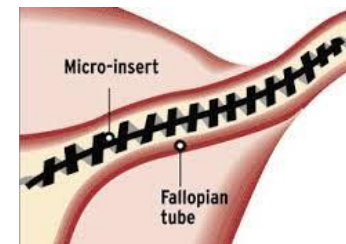
Irreversible

Failure rate 1 in 200

General anaesthetic

Intra-abdominal operation

Ensure not pregnant



ESSURE withdrawn 2017

Intra-Uterine Contraceptive Device

Advantages

- Effective
- Cheap
- Safe
- Any patient
- Not user dependent
- Long acting 3-5yrs
- Non-hormonal
- Reversible

Disadvantages

- Trained HCP
- No barrier to STIs
- Concerns: Infection
- Perforation (1/1000) Expulsion
- SE – Dysmenorrhea Menorrhagia Discharge



Insert Day 5 – 19 *FSRH 2023*

Insert at TOP, <48hrs or 6-8 weeks post delivery

Most effective form of post-coital contraception insert up to 5/7 post first UPSI

If over 40, can stay in till after menopause

CI: abnormal bleeding congenital uterine anomaly

Pregnancy: Intrauterine – remove
Ectopic – not inc/more likely

Remove – no UPSI 7/7

Missing strings - USS + barrier contraception

Intrauterine system

Mirena Kyleena Jaydess Levosert

52mg (20mcg/24hrs) / 19.5mg (9mcg/24hrs) /
13.5 mg (6mcg/24hrs)

Levonorgestrel

5 years / 3 years contraception

Not emergency contraception

Licensed indications

Contraception: Change 5-yearly until age 45

Fitted at 45 – can leave for 6 yrs

Menorrhagia alone May leave as long as is
being effective.

HRT 5 -yearly change



Intrauterine system

Advantages

Efficacy 99.7 - 99.8%
Not user dependant
Long term 3-5yrs
Relatively cheap
Fully reversible
Effective >7 days
Few CI
Few SE
– lowest dose P
Endometrial response
to endogenous
oestrogen
immediate upon
removal

Disadvantages

Requires trained HCP
to insert
Does not stop ovulation
Irregular bleeding 3-
6/12 Progestogenic
side effects
Insertion risks
Not emergency

Evo-inserter introduced 2012

Additional benefits – treatment of
endometriosis adenomyosis

Treatment of HMB - 80% less blood loss

Endometrial protection in HRT

Amenorrhea 80%

Anovulation 15%



Hormone replacement

Oestrogens

Oral

Gel

Patches



Androgens

Testosterone gel



Progestogens

Oral tablets capsules

Vaginal pessaries creams

(Patches – combined)

Intrauterine systems



Implants



Progestogen only contraception

IUS – *Mirena Jaydess*

Implant – *Nexplanon*

Injection – *Depoprovera*

Oral – *POP Cerazette*

Progestogenic effects

Thicken cervical mucus

Endometrial hostility

Do not always stop
ovulation

No (part) barrier to STIs

Can use in lactation

Assoc. ovarian cysts

Progestogenic SE



Depot injection

Inhibits LH, FSH, oestradiol
Amenorrhoea 30% <1 yr

Unreceptive endometrium
Cervical mucus hostile
Anovulation

Depo-Provera

medroxyprogesterone
acetate 150mg/12 weekly IM

Sayana Press Jun 2013

medroxyprogesterone
acetate 104mg/13 weekly SC

Norethisterat

200mg Norethisterone 8/52

FSRH 2023

Advantages

Useful for poor compliers

C.I. – IHD MI CVA liver disease

Disadvantages

menstrual irregularity

fertility delayed return

Prolonged use - reduced bone density

Progestogenic SE - mood symptoms,
weight gain

E deficiency SE

Slight inc risk Ca Breast



Sub-dermal implants

Implanon replaced by Nexplanon Nov 2010

Radio opaque

Insertion: D1-5, 21 days post-delivery At STOP

Advantages

Last 3 years Avoids first pass effect

Prevents ovulation + P effects, Amenorrhea

Reversible - fertility returns to normal <1month

No effects on bone density VTE CVA MI

Not user dependent

Disadvantages

Needs HCP insertion/removal

deep insertions/difficult removals

SE – irregular bleeding, progestogenic

CI – enzyme inducers

Obesity not a problem to 149kg



Progestogen Only Pill

FSRH 2009

ADVANTAGES

- Use in older women
- Use in VTE Migraine DM hypertension
- No effect on lactation
- Safe – few CI
- First POP launched 1969
- Action: thickens cervical mucus
- Reduces endometrial receptivity
- Inhibits ovulation in 15-50% of cycles
- Start Day 21 PN, Day 5 in cycle, After TOP
- Take one daily continuously 28/28
- No need to take 2 if over 70kg



DISADVANTAGES

- Less effective contraception
- 40% reg / irreg bleeding
- 20% amenorrhoea
- SE - P effects, mood
- Acne Breast discomfort
- Need good compliance – 3hr window
- CI – liver inducers, 4/52 condoms

Progestogen-only pills currently available in the UK

- Femulen®* Etnodiol diacetate 500 µg
- Micronor®* Norethisterone 350 µg
- Norgeston®* Levonorgestrel 30 µg
- Noriday®* Norethisterone 350 µg
- Cerazette®* Desogestrel 75 µg

Desogestrel 75mcg

Disadvantages

SE – P effects

VVA / E deficiency

Launched 2002

Higher dose progestogen only pill

Action: Ovulation inhibition 97% of cycles

Plus - Thickening of cervical mucus

Inhospitable endometrium

Advantages

As efficacious as COC

12 hour window

More appropriate for younger women

Safe – few CI

Less spotting / more amenorrhea

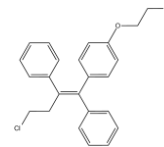
Can be used in lactating women



Vaginal Topical oestrogens

Pessary *Vagifem* / *Vagirux* 10mcg
Imvaggis
 Cream *Ovestin*
 Ring *Estring*
 Gel *Blissel*
 DHEA *Intrarosa*
 Oral Ospemifene *Senshio*

Use once daily for 2 weeks
 then twice weekly for
 maintenance. Indefinitely
 NO systemic absorption
 NO progestogen needed
 Can use post Breast Cancer



Combined hormonal contraception

Combined oral
contraceptive pill

Daily



Contraceptive patch

Weekly



Contraceptive ring

Monthly



Contraceptive patch

Launched 2003

Daily release of oestrogen and progestogen

20 μg ethinylestradiol

150 μg 17-deacetylnorgestimate

1 patch a week for 3 weeks 1 week off

Effective Reversible

User dependant but not at SI

Same contraindications as COC

Potentially same benefits and risks as COC

Avoids 1st pass metabolism

No problem if GI upset

Expensive



Nuvaring

Launched in UK – Jan 2009

Monthly administration improves compliance

Avoids first pass metabolism

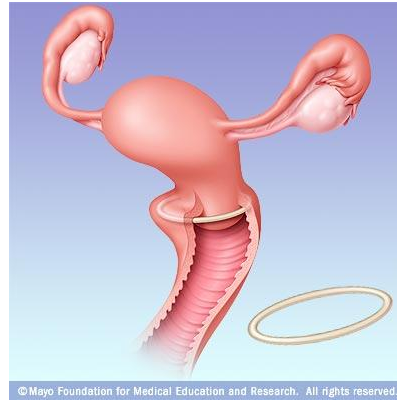
No need for extra precautions if GI upset

Releases 120 mcg etonorgestrel / 15 mcg ethinylestradiol daily

Lowest effective dose of oestrogen with similar efficacy to COC

Rapid return to ovulation

Needs refrigeration so only 4 months given at a time



Used for 3 weeks out of every 4

Can be taken out for up to 3 hours

?less metabolic + clotting effects



Combined oral contraceptive pill

20-50 micrograms Ethinylestradiol

Progestogens

1st generation	Norethindrone
2nd generation	Levonorgestrel 0.15-0.25mg Norethisterone 0.5-1mg
3rd generation	Desogestrel 0.15mg Gestodene 0.075mg Norgestimate 0.25mg

Other	Cyproterone acetate Drospirenone Dienogest Nomegestrol acetate
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Reducing the dose to the lowest possible without reducing efficacy (10 fold reduction)

Newer progestogens

Less androgenic

Negligible impact on carbohydrate and lipid metabolism

Potent inhibitors of ovulation - dec estrogen dose
Can be used in treatment of acne and hirsutism



Mechanism of action COCP

Inhibit LH surge

Inhibit ovulation (-ve feedback)

Reduces endometrial receptivity

Reduces mucus sperm penetration



Advantages

Not at time of SI

Effective

Reversible

Oestrogenic

Reduce dysmenorrhea, PID,
menorrhagia, (PMS)

Reduce ectopic pregnancy
rate, ovarian cysts

Reduce incidence ovarian /
endometrial Ca

Disadvantages

Daily

User dependent

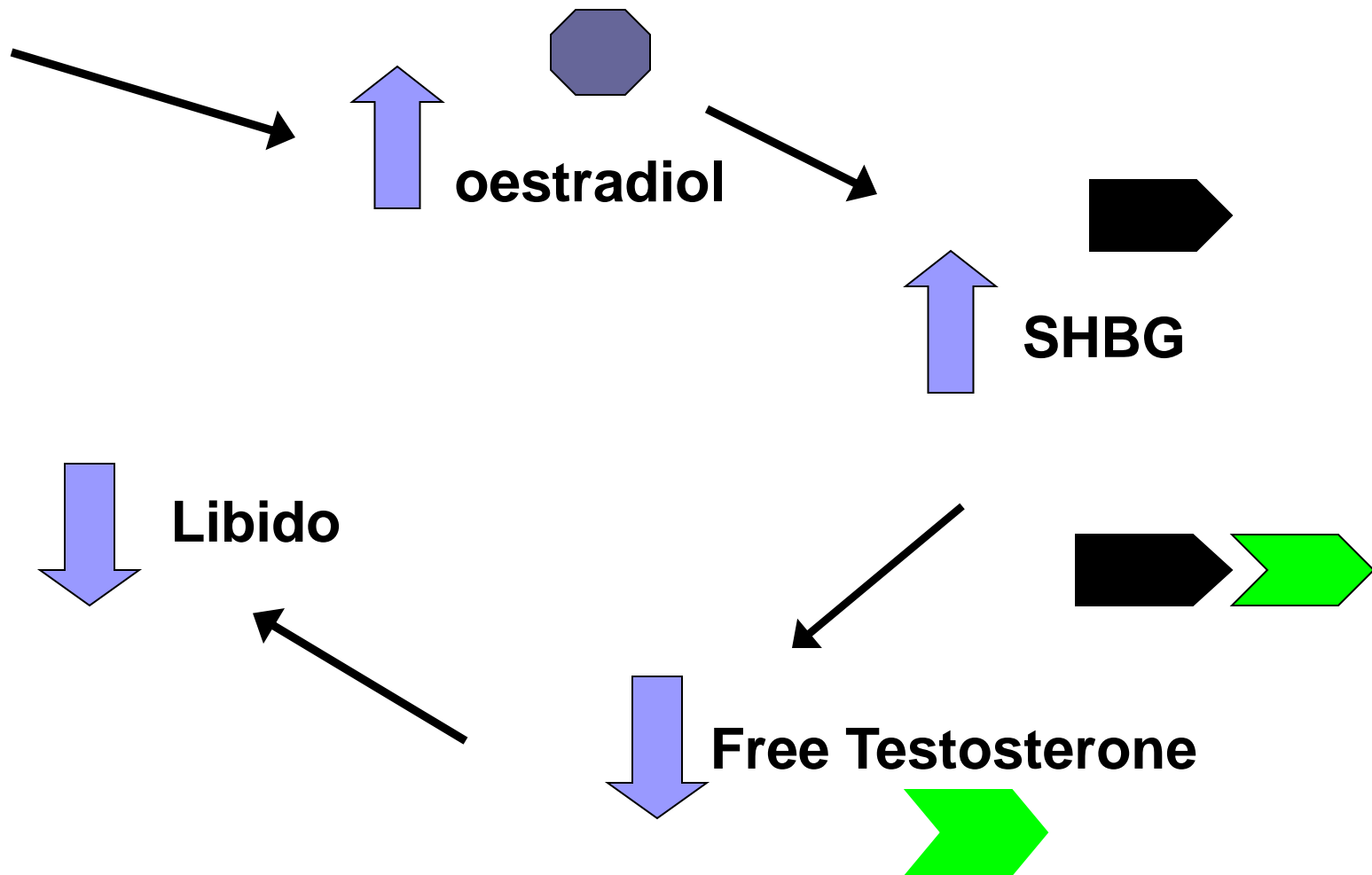
Min barrier to STIs

? Inc breast cancer

Inc risk VTE

Libido

Hormones and Libido



COCAP - contraindications

Absolute

IHD TIA CVA Valvular cardiac
disease

Focal migraine

Acute liver disease / tumour /
porphyria

VTE

Trophoblastic disease / breast cancer

Undiagnosed abnormal bleeding /
gynae cancer

NOT breast feeding

Relative

Young stable IDDM

Smoking 5-40 cigs / day

BP 160/95

Age > 35

50% above ideal body weight

Sickle / Chronic renal disease /
SLE

Instructions

If diarrhoea vomiting antibiotics
(enterohepatic circulation of EE) -
barrier precautions for 7/7

Enzyme inducing drugs will require higher
dose of EE or change of contraception

Anticonvulsants (not Na valproate)

Rifampicin Griseofulvin

Can 'tricycle' pill ie up to 4 packs

Before surgery, consider risk of no
contraception - thrombophrophylaxis

47% of women missed 1 pill per cycle

22% miss 2 pills per cycle

Poor compliance and discontinuation are
estimated to account for 20% unplanned
pregnancies

Missed pill rules

COC - < 12hrs – next pill asap

COC - > 12hrs - next pill asap, barrier 7/7
(if within 7 days of finishing packet – start
next packet)

POP - > 3hrs late - barrier 4 days

May 2011-12

If one active pill missed – no
need for additional precautions

If two active pills missed –
additional precautions for 7 days

Missed = >12hrs

Move towards quick starting
methods, bridging contraception
and towards flexible prescribing
or tailored regimens



COCP choice - General principles

Use lowest dose that gives cycle control and adequate contraception

Low dose (20mcg) ideal for obese/older women /teens

Standard strength (30-35mcg) for younger women (more fertile)

Higher dose (50mcg) women taking enzyme inducing drugs

3rd generation 30/100,000 VTE

2nd generation 15/100,000 VTE

Pregnancy 60/100,000 VTE

Remember VTE is rare and less than risk in pregnancy



1st time user with no issues, a 2nd generation as first line

But consider 3rd generation pill for those with arterial disease risk

3rd generation progestogen for acne/headache/depression/weight gain/BTB/breast symptoms/lipid profile/smoke/BP

Non-contraceptive benefits of combined E/P

Cochrane review 2010 all CHC
have similar efficacy



Control of menstrual cycle
problems

Dec incidence of / treatment
for fibroids

Dec incidence of / treatment
for endometriosis

Dec ovarian and endometrial
Ca by up to 75%

Dec colon Ca by up to 20%

Dec benign breast disease

Dec ovarian cysts

Conceals menopausal symptoms

Maintains bone density

Risks

Cardiovascular(Arterial Venous)

Venous thromboembolism (DVT/PE)

Myocardial infarction

Stroke (Thrombotic/Haemorrhagic)

Hypertension

Breast cancer

HPV and Cervical cancer

Drospirinone COCP



Launched 2002

Less fluid retention, mood swings and breast tenderness

April 2010 MHRA guidance - incd VTE risk

More expensive so may be difficult to get on some formularies

Useful in PCOS acne PMS

Drovelis

24/4 28 pill pack
14.2mg Estetrol E4
3mg drospirinone



E4 activates nuclear ER but
not Membrane ER

Less effect on breast and
liver

Effective

Tolerability and safety same
EE/LNG

Qlaira

Launched May 2009

Contains Estradiol valerate

E2 = natural oestrogen

Dienogest - good suppression of
endometrial proliferation¹

26/2 pill. Maintains stable E2
levels, optimises cycle control,
inhibits ovulation

Fraser *Human Reprod* 2011

Potential for less metabolic impact than
COCs with EE

Good cycle control and reduced blood loss

Licensed for heavy menstrual bleeding –
reduction of 88%¹ but higher incidence of
light breakthrough bleeding

Different regimen

Expensive



Over 35s

Uncomplicated diabetics

Women who request 'lowest dose'

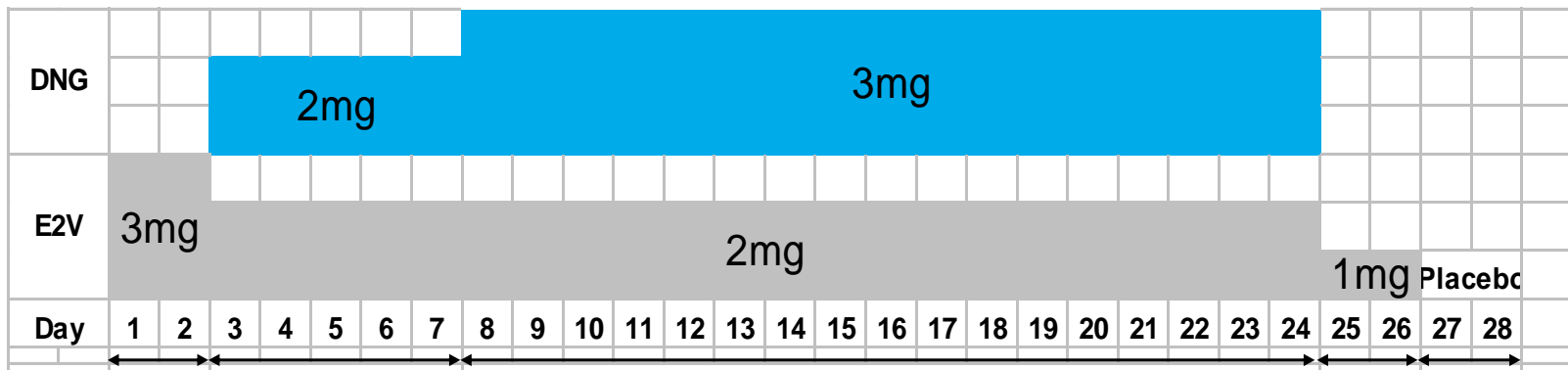
Bleeding irregularly on POP

COCP with oestrogen withdrawal
symptoms

Perimenopausal PMS

Menorrhagia declining IUS

Qlaira



**oestrogen
dominant**

**increasing progestogenic
activity**

**oestrogen
only**

Zoely

2.5mg Nomegestrol
acetate

1.5g Estradiol

24/4 regime with 4
placebo tablets

12hrs missed pill rule

?VTE figure

Useful in:

POI

Perimenopause





Tailored regimens

Cochrane review¹ – continuous dosing or extended regimes
are a reasonable approach

Apply only to monophasic CHCs

Extended use – tricycling

Shortened pill-free interval 4/24

Extended use with shortened pill-free interval

Extended use with regular pill-free interval

¹Edeleman et al Cochrane Database 2005

Emergency contraception



- 1 Progestogen emergency pill
- 2 Ulipristal acetate
- 3 Cu IUCD up to 5 days postcoital (or day 19)

Don't forget the STI check in 2/52!

Consider 'quick starting' immediately after EC

Remember post coital IUCD most effective and should be offered to all

Progestogen only EC



Levonelle 1500

Available OTC as Levonelle One Step for >16s

Within 72 hours (the sooner the better)

Effective (95% if within 24hrs, 58% at 72hrs)

No effect once LH surge has started

No contraindications and no age limit

Low incidence of side-effects

May give up to 120 hours post UPSI if Cu IUCD unacceptable (out of licence)

Consider giving advance supply

Ulipristal



Launched September 2009
Contains 30mg ulipristal acetate
A synthetic selective
progesterone receptor
modulator
Licensed for 120 hours – no
apparent decline in efficacy
over time
No effect after LH peak
More effective than LNG but 3 x
expense of LNG
Not available OTC

Breast feeding not recommended
for 36 hours after use
May theoretically decrease action
of COC and POP
If starting hormonal method,
advise to use additional barrier
contraception:
CHC – 14 days
Qlaira -16 days
POP (both trad + cerazette) -
9 days
Cannot use with enzyme inducers
PEP

Case 1

Age 23

BMI 30

Irregular menstrual
cycle

PMS

Poor diet

Diary / app

Lifestyle

COC

Drospirone COC

SSRI – sex

?risk STIs



Case 2

Age 35

Family complete

Increasing PMS

Increasing heavy
menstrual bleeding



Mirena

Any COCP if no CI

POP

Implant

Case 3

Age 44

Regular cycle

Oestrogen deficiency
symptoms



Any COCP if no CI

Qlaira Zoely Yasmin

Mirena E2 Patch

Cyclical HRT + barrier

Case 4

Age 52

Regular periods

Cyclical flushes

Cyclical hrt
Contraception!!





www.pms.org.uk

Thankyou

Resources

British
Menopause
Society

www.bms.org.uk

BMS
Meeting the
challenge of
menopause

Women's
Health Concern
[www.womens-
health-
concern.org](http://www.womens-health-concern.org)



Institute of Psychosexual
medicine

www.ipm.org.uk



Institute of
Psychosexual
Medicine

Menopause Matters

www.menopausematters.co.uk

Menopause
matters

DAISY *premature ovarian failure*
www.daisynetwork.org.uk



NAPS *premenstrual
syndrome*
www.pms.org.uk

