



Some of the Many Aspects of Contraception Effects

“Contraceptive methods ... make men and women reckless.”
– Mahatma Gandhi (adapted)

This month: Contraception as a two-edged sword: breast cancer up, ovarian cancer down.



This well-known double edged sword for women contraception users [remains unchanged](#): breast cancer rate stays up while ovarian cancer rate is pushed down.

6 Months ago: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reach Epidemic Levels in California



Despite presenting [alarming statistics a year ago for 2017](#), the California Department of Public Health had to announce even higher levels of sexually transmitted diseases for 2018, [calling it an epidemic](#), a term used to describe any problem that is out of control..

2 years ago: Contraception, Suicide and STDs



A [2018 Danish study of women](#) who turned 15 during the study period (1996 – 2013) and who had no history of hormonal contraceptive use assessed the relative risk of suicide attempt and suicide in users of hormonal contraception. This study found that women, aged 15 to 33 years, who used hormonal contraception had a relative risk of 1.97 for a first suicide attempt and 3.08 for suicide compared to women who never used contraception. In fact, the relative risk of a first suicide attempt increased rapidly after initiation of hormonal contraception compared with never users, and it remained at least doubled until 1 year after initiating its use. Thereafter, the risk estimates decreased but they remained 30% higher compared with never users after more than 7 years of use.

A [2018 study using data from the 2011-2013 National Survey of Family Growth \(NSFG\)](#) found that never married adolescents who used hormonal contraception were three times more likely to have an STD, have pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), become pregnant, and are ten times more likely to have an abortion compared to non-contracepting adolescents.

4 years ago: Contraception, Depression and Antidepressants



A [2016 Danish study](#) of 1,061,997 women, aged 15 to 34 years, examined whether the use of hormonal contraception is positively associated with subsequent use of antidepressants and a diagnosis of depression at a psychiatric hospital. The study found that compared with nonusers, use of hormonal contraception, especially among adolescents, had an increased risk for subsequent use of antidepressants and a diagnosis of depression.

5 years ago: Contraception: Brain Function and Morphology



A [2015 study](#) testing the hypothesis that oral contraceptive use is associated with differences in brain structure and function found that women who use oral contraceptives had significantly lower cortical thickness in regions of the brain that respond to rewards and incoming stimuli compared to women who rely on their natural cycles.

15 Years Ago: Contraception Genital Herpes and Warts



A [15-year-old Australian study](#) of 9,582 women, aged 22 to 27, who participated in the Australian Longitudinal Study of Women's Health found higher odds for genital herpes and genital warts with increasing duration of contraceptive use.

40 Years Ago: Contraceptive and Chlamydia



A nearly [40-year-old study conducted among 1,080 women, aged 16 to 34, in Leeds, United Kingdom](#) found that the number of oral contraceptive users had an increased incidence of chlamydia compared with non-contraceptive users.



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