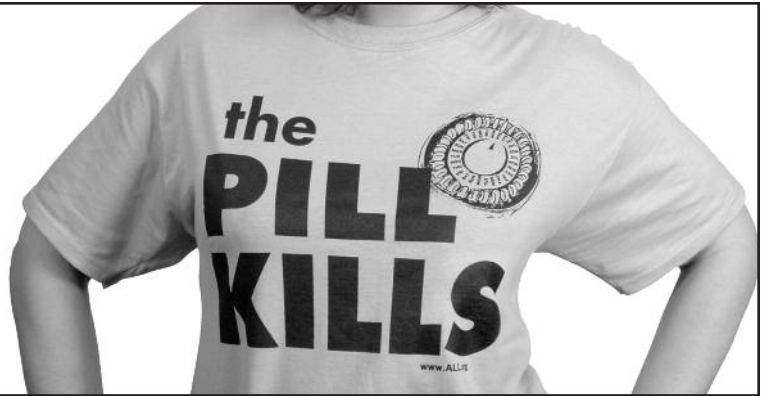


PROTEST THE PILL DAY '09 THE PILL KILLS WOMEN



The following are some questions about birth control. Feel free to use these answers if you are approached while protesting the pill.

Q: How does the pill kill women?

A: The birth control pill and other birth control products have a long list of dangerous side effects. Oftentimes what can happen is that the pill can cause a woman to develop deep vein thrombosis, which is a blood clot that forms in a vein. The blood clot can block the blood supply to the heart or brain, which could result in heart attack, stroke or death. The clot could also travel to the lungs, which then could result in pulmonary embolism or death. Women have died as a direct result of taking the pill. That having been said, there are still many unanswered questions regarding whether or not the pill was at least partially the cause of more deaths than we can document. A thorough investigation should be done, not only because the pill has dangerous side effects, but to protect the health and wellbeing of women in general in the United States.

Q: The pill killed women back in the 1950s. Isn't the pill safer now?

A: In 1956, large-scale clinical trials began for the express purpose of learning of the possible side effects of the pill. These trials were conducted so that the pill could gain approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Gregory Pincus, a biologist who worked closely with Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, chose Puerto Rico as the location of the human trials because it provided a large pool of poor, uneducated women who could be easily monitored. These women were literally human guinea pigs. In fact, the local doctor in charge of the study told Pincus that the pill causes "too many side reactions to be generally acceptable." However, Pincus and his chief collaborator, Dr. John Rock dismissed the doctor's findings and did not investigate the side effects or the underlying causes of those side effects. Further, they did not investigate the reasons why some women died during the trials.¹

Clearly since the pill was not safe even before it was approved by the FDA, it certainly is not safe now. Anyone claiming that the birth control pill is safe should explain this to Jennifer Gray. Jennifer was 25 years old when a blood clot almost took her life. The doctors told her she would have died within hours if she had not been persistent in finding out

what was wrong with her. She had pulmonary emboli in both lungs and the birth control pill triggered these clots. The pill is not safe.²

Q: Even if the pill has contributed to the deaths of some women in recent years, why are you protesting something that seems to benefit more people than it kills?

A: Benefit whom? The pill and other birth control products can and do kill. How is that a benefit? How many more women have to die or experience serious side effects that lead to death before YOU join us in our effort to educate others on the dangers of this chemical?

What we are doing is helping women and men understand the TRUTH. No one can know whether or not the pill has been a contributing factor in more deaths since the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death does not include a section that asks whether or not the deceased was taking some form of birth control. The certificate asks if tobacco use contributed to death, but it does not ask whether the deceased female was using the pill, either currently or at any time during her life. In the U.S. in 2004, 21,813 females died from cardiac arrest and heart failure.³ How many of these women were on the pill, or at one point in their lives had been on the pill? The federal government has a moral obligation to conduct research on this question and to modify the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death so that the right questions are asked. It is well documented that the birth control pill contributes to many cardiovascular problems in women. As a matter of fact, women using oral contraceptives have **five times greater risk** of death from cardiovascular causes.⁴ Be sure to visit www.ThePillKills.com for more information.

Q: Is the pill really dangerous to MY health? I'm healthy!

A: Even healthy women who were in their teens and twenties have died from the pill and other birth control products. These products are not safe. They can lead to several different cardiovascular problems as well as breast cancer, cervical cancer, infertility, birth defects, pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, shrinking of the womb, weight gain and much more.^{5, 6, 7}

Q: Why aren't we better informed about the fact that the pill can kill women?

A: That is a good question. We'd like to know too! The fact is that millions of dollars are invested in birth control. Planned Parenthood enters into sweetheart deals with birth control companies so that they can sell these dangerous products at their 844+ facilities. Planned Parenthood is then able to make a profit from the sales. Instead of educating women on the healthy and natural way to "plan" their families, women only seem to be told to take the pill which is described as being "safe." Side effects are downplayed if they are even mentioned at all.

Q: What if I have to take the pill for medical reasons?

A: Since each woman and situation is different, you should talk this over with your doctor and find a safer alternative. In many cases, the pill does not treat or cure your medical condition, but is nothing but a band-aid, which can actually cause even more problems. If your doctor has no other alternative, then contact the Pope Paul VI Institute at 402-390-6600 or visit their web site to learn more www.popepaulvi.com. There are trained professionals there that can help you find the real source and treatment for your medical condition and they may be able to make a referral to a trained physician in your area.

Q: If women are dying and others becoming very ill, are the victims or victims' families filing lawsuits?

A: Yes. A recent example of this happened just last year. Johnson and Johnson was forced to recall the Ortho Evra birth control patch because of the number of women who suffered blood clots, heart attacks, strokes and died. Johnson and Johnson spent at least \$68.7 MILLION to settle **hundreds** of lawsuits.⁸

Q: What are other alternatives to the pill?

A: If you are married and for some serious reason you need to hold off on having a child, there are safe, natural ways to doing this. Couples who learn Natural Family Planning as it is taught by the Couple to Couple League and/or the Pope Paul VI Institute, which teaches the Creighton Model, have a much higher success rate in spacing their children. Marriages have a much higher success rate and women feel better about themselves, are healthier and as a result, happier. The obvious reason for this is that a woman is not ingesting chemicals that her body does not need, but rather she is learning along with her spouse how her body works and how her cycles can help plan their family. Another great resource is One More Soul at 800-307-7685 or www.omsoul.com. They publish a list of alternatives to the pill that women have found to be very helpful.

Q: The Supreme Court has ruled that I have a right to privacy, including my right to use the

pill! Who do you think you are to say otherwise?

A: On June 7, 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision. The Supreme Court justices first presumed that previous Court decisions dealing with a citizen's right to liberty and security that prohibited invasion of one's home and acquisition of evidence that might later be used to convict him of a crime also addressed privacy within marriage in matters related to bearing children. In fact, the justices argued, "The concept of liberty is not so restricted... it embraces the right of marital privacy though that right is not mentioned explicitly in the Constitution" and is based on "...specific guarantees in the Bill of Rights [which] have penumbras, formed by emanations from those guarantees that help give them life and substance."⁹

This confusing language, which has no relationship whatsoever to what the Founding Fathers intended, gave married women permission to use the birth control pill. The Supreme Court literally created the "right to privacy" as it applies to sexual matters out of thin air.

We now know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that not only did the Supreme Court literally create the right to privacy, but did so while ignoring the profound consequences that were suffered by those who used the pill. The medical facts played no part in the Supreme Court's decision. But that does not change reality.

The fact is the birth control pill can kill you... of that there is no doubt.

¹ "People & Events: The Puerto Rico Pill Trials," www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/pill/peopleevents/e_puertorico.html (accessed 3/24/08).

² "Jennifer Gray's Story," October 5, 2008, www.stoptheclot.org/News/article112.htm, (accessed 3/6/09).

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed through the Compressed Mortality Database. Use keywords cardiac arrest and heart failure. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html> (accessed 4/8/09).

⁴ "Oestrogens and hypertension," November 1981, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7047019?ordinalpos=570&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum (accessed 3/30/09).

⁵ "QuiverFull Pill Fact Sheet," www.quiverfull.com/birth_control/fact_sheet_on_pill_side_effect.html (accessed 3/25/08).

⁶ Bogomir M.Kuhar, PharmD, FASCP, *Infant Homicides through Contraceptives*, 5th ed. (Bardstown, KY: Eternal Life, 2003).

⁷ John Wilks, *A Consumer's Guide to the Pill and Other Drugs*, 3rd ed. (Mandaluyong, Philippines: National Book Store, Inc., 2000).

⁸ "J&J Paid \$68 Million to Settle Birth-Control Cases (Update3)," *Bloomberg.com*, October 10, 2008, www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=amZTOX84_8zU&refer=home (accessed 3/6/09).

⁹ *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479 (1965), <http://supreme.justia.com/us/381/479/case.html> (accessed 3/25/08).



A downloadable PDF of this information is available at www.ThePillKills.com

© 2009 American Life League, Inc.

P.O. Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22555 • 540-659-4171 • info@all.org • www.all.org