

Breast cancer risk and the pill

The risk of breast cancer in young women is very small regardless of whether you are on the pill or not . Under the age of 35 about 2 women in 1000 will develop breast cancer. This risk increases the older you get and by the age of 75 about 1 women in 12 will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Being on the combined pill only increases these risks by a small amount.

All studies relating to breast cancer and the use of the combined oral contraceptive pill were reviewed in June 1996 (lancet June 22nd). This re-analysis appears to confirm there is a small increase in breast cancer risk for women whilst they are taking the combined pill. This risk is not influenced by:

- The type and dose of pill
- The number of years you have been on the pill
- Other risk factors you may have

The increase in risk disappears 10 years after stopping the pill

	Breast cancer diagnosed per 10,000 women	
	by age 35yrs	by age 50yrs
Never used the pill	16	160
Pill use for 5 years	17.5	180

(report of collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors)

Please discuss this matter with the doctor if you have any queries or worries