

Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome

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PCOS, ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND THE ACCURACY OF INFORMATION

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No consistent association between polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and risk for breast cancer (BC) was observed in a recent systematic review, although it “incorrectly” reported that “no consistent association between PCOS risk and breast cancer was observed”. However, long-term use of oral contraceptives (OC) is considered a first line therapy for PCOS and their possible association to BC could be a concern in the informed consent process. In the most recent publication of UpToDate, it is stated as, “a non-significant increase (of BC) in ever users of OCs compared with nonusers”. However, the latter conclusion of a related meta-analysis of prospective cohort studies is connected with an irrelevant reference and more importantly the original paper states that “this meta-analysis provides evidence

of a non-significant increase in BC risk associated with ever OC use, but the risk for long-term OC users is significantly greater”. Furthermore, two major meta-analyses are totally ignored in this publication: 1. The collaborative group on hormonal factors in BC meta-analysis which suggested, “a causal relationship between OC use and BC”, and 2. A meta-analysis of case-control studies which concluded that “use of OCs is associated with an increased risk of premenopausal BC, especially with use before first full-term pregnancy in parous women”. For a reliable sharing decision with the patient, the accuracy and sufficiency of information is always very important.

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