

Hissey ★ Kientz L.L.P.

Ortho Evra Patch Newsletter



Ortho Evra Patch Linked to Blood Clots



Women who use the Ortho Evra patch are up to three times more likely to experience blood clots, according to a July 2005 Associated Press article. The Food

and Drug Administration has received more than 16,000 adverse reaction reports about Ortho Evra, including at least 23 deaths and many other severe injuries among young women.

Four million women have used Ortho Evra since Ortho-McNeil released the patch in 2002. Unlike traditional birth control pills—which must be taken daily—the Ortho Evra patch needs to be applied only once per week.

However, almost as soon as Ortho Evra went on sale, doctors began to see an alarming rate of blood clots, pulmonary embolisms, strokes, heart attacks and other side effects. The difference between the Ortho Evra patch and birth control pills lies in how the two drugs release medication into a woman's body.

Both Ortho Evra and the pill work by releasing a combination of estrogen and progestin. These two hormones work together to prevent ovulation. However, estrogen and progestin are known to contribute to blood coagulation, which can lead to blood clots, pulmonary embolisms, strokes or heart attacks.

Ortho Evra users receive up to a 60% higher hormone dose than they would with the pill. This higher dose dramatically raises the risk that women will suffer an adverse reaction from using the Ortho Evra patch.

Side Effects of Ortho Evra

By November 2005, Ortho Evra had been linked to the deaths of 23 women, 17 of which were caused by blood clots.

One of the most common

forms of clotting among Ortho Evra users is deep vein thrombosis, marked by an acute pain in the leg. Often times a blood clot detaches from the point of development (usually the leg) and travels to the lungs, heart or brain. These clots can clog the arteries, leading to injury, paralysis or death.

Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group, has recommended that women stop using the Ortho Evra patch. "There is no medical reason for women to use the more dangerous Ortho Evra rather than one of the older, better understood and equally effective oral contraceptives," he says.

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**— Dr. Sidney Wolfe,
Director of Public Citizen's
Health Research Group**

The FDA Weighs In

The FDA released a black box warning—the strongest kind—in November 2005 informing women that by using the Ortho Evra patch, they are exposed to up to 60% more estrogen than with the pill. The agency warned them that this increased exposure raises their risk of blood clots, pulmonary embolisms, strokes and heart attacks, and advised them to speak with their doctors about the potential side effects of Ortho Evra.

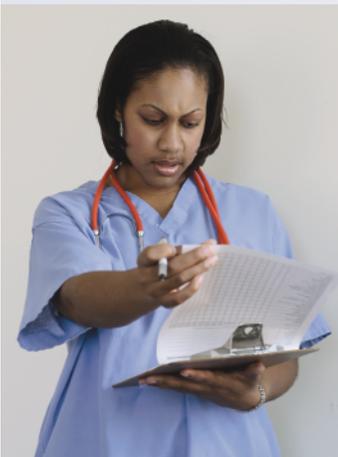
The FDA's warning about the risks of Ortho Evra was confirmed by Ortho-McNeil in documents uncovered in a lawsuit against the company. After the AP revealed that the patch may triple a woman's risk of developing blood clots and other side effects, Ortho-McNeil analyzed the agency's reports and found that the rate of side effects was even higher than indicated in the earlier study.

In spite of the company's findings, it has yet to issue a recall of Ortho Evra.

Lawsuits Against Ortho-McNeil

The first lawsuit regarding Ortho Evra was filed in November 2005 on behalf of a 14-year-old girl who died from blood clots after using the patch for just eight weeks. Since then, more than 1,000 lawsuits have been filed against Ortho-McNeil by women (or their families) who were injured or died after using the Ortho Evra patch.

Legal experts say that the company's willingness to settle cases is a result of the "signature disease" suffered by some Ortho Evra users. Most of these women are in their twenties or thirties, an age at which blood clots are extremely rare.



Importance of legal representation

Please be aware that the deadline for bringing a claim is typically two years from the date of discovery of a related harm or condition, but this can vary from state to state. Also, it is vitally important to preserve your testimony and other crucial evidence right away for use at trial and in settlement negotiations.

If you or someone you love has been injured while using the Ortho Evra patch call Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. now for your free case evaluation at **1-866-275-4454**. The

lawyers at Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. care, are committed, and get results.

WHY YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER

Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. has no knowledge of any medical condition or existing legal problems you may have. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter in the future, please write us that you would like to be permanently removed from our mailing list.

Other Hissey★Kientz Practice Areas

Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. also represents clients in the following types of cases:

1. **Mesothelioma, lung cancer** and other diseases related to **asbestos exposure**
2. **ReNu with MoistureLoc contact lens solution**, which leads to eye infections, scarring of the cornea (**keratitis**), loss of vision and transplant
3. **Renal failure** caused by a drug administered to heart surgery patients (**Trasylol**)
4. **Osteonecrosis of the jaw**, or "jaw death," linked with **Fosamax**
5. **Zyprexa, Risperdal** and **Seroquel** have been linked to **severe weight gain, diabetes**, blood sugar disorders and pancreatitis
6. **Hormone Replacement Therapy drugs**, which may lead to **breast cancer**, ovarian cancer or stroke
7. **Ketek** related to **liver failure** and **liver damage**
8. **AMO Complete Moisture Plus Multi-Purpose** contact lens solution linked to painful eye infection and **vision loss**
9. **Birth injuries**, including **cerebral palsy** and **Erb's palsy**
10. **Tequin** linked to blood sugar disorders, diabetes, kidney damage or kidney failure

Ortho Evra Patch Newsletter

Did You Know?

- Users of the Ortho Evra patch are up to three times more likely to experience blood clots, compared with women who take contraceptive pills.
- The FDA has received more than 16,000 adverse reaction reports about Ortho Evra, including at least 23 deaths.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ★ Blood Clots | ★ Stroke and Cerebral Hemorrhage |
| ★ Deep Vein Thrombosis | ★ Pulmonary Embolism |
| ★ Heart Attack | |

If you or a loved one have used the Ortho Evra birth control patch and suffered any of these side effects, call the experienced attorneys at Hissey ★ Kientz L.L.P. now for a free and confidential consultation.



866-275-4454 or 512-320-9100

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