



## **Hissey Kientz, LLP Warns Birth Control Pill Users Of Increased Health Risks To Those Who Have Or Are Taking YAZ or YASMIN**

*The law firm of [Hissey Kientz, LLP](#) is warning all women using the birth control pills Yaz or Yasmin that they may face an increased risk of blood clots, heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis and other significant side effects as a result of the defective design of these products. In addition, one of the hormones in [Yaz and Yasmin](#)—known as drospirenone, or DRSP—has been linked to an increased risk of kidney injury or gallbladder problems.*

(Vocus) December 10, 2009 -- The law firm of Hissey Kientz, LLP is warning all women using the birth control pills Yaz or Yasmin that they may face an increased risk of blood clots, heart attack, stroke, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis and other significant side effects as a result of the defective design of these products. Women taking Yaz and Yasmin are twice as likely to develop blood clots compared with other forms of birth control, according to two [studies](#) published in the [British Medical Journal](#).

In addition, one of the hormones in Yaz and Yasmin—known as drospirenone, or DRSP—has been linked to an increased risk of kidney injury or gallbladder problems. DRSP is a diuretic—a chemical that helps to eliminate excess fluid from the body—and was added to Yaz and Yasmin in order to reduce bloating and weight gain during menstruation. However, DRSP can also cause unintended changes in the body's chemistry that can lead to serious and potentially deadly health problems, including severe injury to the gallbladder requiring removal by invasive explant surgery.

“While DRSP was added to [Yaz and Yasmin](#) in order to limit the severity of menstrual symptoms, the results of doing so have been disastrous,” says attorney Kristin Giaquinta Schoen of Hissey Kientz, LLP. “Evidence suggests that DRSP causes an unnecessary risk of kidney or gallbladder problems. Many women who have taken Yaz or Yasmin have suffered serious kidney damage or required surgery to remove their gallbladder.”

Based on reports to the Food and Drug Administration of side effects among birth control pill users, women taking Yaz and Yasmin were significantly more likely to have suffered deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolisms, strokes, heart attacks, gallbladder problems or death compared with women taking a safer form of birth control pill, Ortho Tri-Cyclen.

In October 2008, the FDA forced the manufacturer of Yaz, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, to stop airing a series of advertisements which the agency said mislead women about the safety and health benefits of the drug. In a warning letter sent to the Bayer, the FDA said that these ads promoted the use of Yaz for conditions which it was never approved by the FDA to treat—such as serious acne or PMS—while downplaying the risk of serious side effects associated with the drug. The FDA later forced Bayer to air a series of advertisements to correct the misleading information the company provided to the public in the original commercials.

“In addition to selling a drug that had a significantly increased risk of stroke, pulmonary embolism, deep vein



thrombosis, heart attack and death, Bayer shockingly promoted Yaz to women for conditions it was not approved to treat knowing full well that women using their product could face an increased risk of potentially fatal side effects,” says Schoen. “Many women were exposed to life-threatening health risks after they were prescribed Yaz solely to treat acne or PMS, despite the fact that there are safer and more effective drugs to treat these conditions. There is simply no reason why a woman should take birth control pills that could double her risk of blood clots to get rid of a few pimples.”

#### About Hissey Kientz, LLP

[Hissey Kientz, LLP \(http://www.hkllp.com\)](http://www.hkllp.com) is currently accepting cases involving women who developed blood clots or other side effects after using the birth control pills Yaz, Yasmin or Ocella. Hissey Kientz, LLP also represents those other victims of mesothelioma and asbestos diseases, as well as those injured by a fentanyl or Duragesic overdose deaths, acute phosphate nephropathy as a result of a Fleet Phospho-soda bowel cleansing products, Digitek, Zicam, the Composix Kugel mesh patch, gadolinium MRI contrast dyes, Reglan, FELA railroad injury lawsuits, the Ortho Evra birth control patch, Fen-Phen products containing ephedra, as well as other defective drugs and devices. To learn more about the firm and other drug cases, visit Hissey Kientz, LLP ([www.hkllp.com](http://www.hkllp.com)) or call toll-free at (866) 275-4454.

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