

Oral Contraception & Cancer

The Catholic Medical Association supports your right to know. The birth control pill has been available for over 50 years. When it was released to market in 1960, it was thought to be the miracle drug that would free women's lives and improve family life. However, now we know that women who use the Pill for a minimum of four years prior to having their first baby have a 52% higher risk of developing breast cancer¹ while women who use the Pill for more than five years are four times more likely to develop cervical cancer.² To find out more, visit CathMed.org.

¹ Kahlenborn et al.; "Oral Contraceptive Use- as a risk factor for pre-menopausal breast cancer: a meta analysis"; Mayo Clinic Proceedings, 2006: pgs. 1290-1320
([http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(11\)61152-X/fulltext](http://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(11)61152-X/fulltext)).

² Dr Victor Moreno MD , F Xavier Bosch MD, Nubia Muñoz MD, Prof Chris JLM Meijer MD, Prof Keerti V Shah MD, Jan MM Walboomers PhD, Rolando Herrero MD, Silvia Franceschi MD. Effect of oral contraceptives on risk of cervical cancer in women with human papillomavirus infection: the IARC multicentric case-control study International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Multicentric Cervical Cancer Study Group. The Lancet, 2002: 359, Pages 1085 – 1092
([http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(02\)08150-3/abstract](http://www.lancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(02)08150-3/abstract))