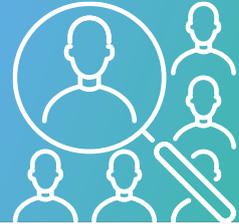


DARWIN EU® study

Is there a link between blood clots and common painkillers with hormonal birth control



Why is this study needed?

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) is when a blood clot forms in a deep vein. VTE is rare, but it can be life-threatening. Often, it can be prevented. Research has found that taking oral combined hormonal contraception can raise the risk of VTE. Regulators have requested more information on this risk in women who take these contraceptives and common painkillers.



How were the results used?

The study observed a higher risk of VTE in women on hormonal birth control taking oral NSAIDs. However, the risk could be linked to the medical issues being treated, since the risk was already elevated before taking these pain killers and was also observed with the use of paracetamol, not known to cause VTE.



How was this conducted?

Looking at four European databases, the study explored whether women aged 15-49 who use common painkillers (NSAIDs) and hormonal birth control have a higher risk of getting VTE. The study looked specifically at ibuprofen, diclofenac and naproxen to see how they affect the risk of blood clots in these women, in different periods before, during and after the start of NSAIDs.



Why do these results matter?

This study is important because, even though the overall risk is low, the widespread use of hormonal birth control means that understanding any link between NSAIDs and blood clots helps provide clear advice about NSAIDs use and improve safety for many women.

More information



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