



March 24, 2008

Literature update from OCs OTC Working Group

Dear members of the OCs OTC Working Group,

There have been several publications in the past few months related to OCs OTC that we thought you might be interested in. These include:

- Results of the Direct Access study in Washington state, which evaluated a model of pharmacist provision of hormonal contraception  
**Gardner JS, Miller L, Downing DF, Le S, Blough D, Shotorbani S.** Pharmacist prescribing of hormonal contraceptives: results of the Direct Access study. *J Am Pharm Assoc* 2008 Mar-Apr;48(2):212-21; 5 p following 21.
- Literature review related to nicotine replacement therapy since its Rx-to-OTC switch, which may have some relevant lessons as we consider moving OCs OTC  
**Shiffman S, Sweeney CT.** Ten years after the Rx-to-OTC switch of nicotine replacement therapy: what have we learned about the benefits and risks of non-prescription availability? *Health Policy* 2008 Apr;86(1):17-26.
- Editorial in the *Lancet* that accompanied a meta-analysis of studies demonstrating the reduction in ovarian cancer associated with the use of oral contraceptives. The editorial says “Women deserve the choice to obtain oral contraceptives over-the-counter, removing a huge and unnecessary barrier to a potentially powerful cancer-preventing agent.” If you’d like a copy of the meta-analysis, please let me know.  
The case for preventing ovarian cancer. *Lancet* 2008 Jan 26;371(9609):275.

We’re also aware of several related manuscripts that are under review, and we’ll send those around as soon as they are published.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks,  
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