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Dr. C.W. Jameson
National Toxicology Program
Report on Carcinogens
P.O. Box 12233
79 Alexander Dr. Bld. 4401 Rm. 3127
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Jameson,

I am a 27 year-old breast cancer patient, desperately urging your panel to follow through with the recommendation made back in December to include sterodial estrogens in the 10th Report on Carcinogens. I was diagnosed in August 2000. I have no family history of breast cancer (or *any* other cancer) on either side of my family, traceable back five generations. I have also tested negative for the BRCA 1&2 gene mutations. I do not drink alcohol and I do not smoke (and never did). I am thin, and I always ate healthily and exercised regularly.

My only apparent risk factor was my use of **oral contraceptives for 10 years** from ages 17- 27. I did not know that this was a risk factor for breast cancer. I was never told this by **ANY** medical provider (**until *after* my diagnosis!**). There was no mention of the possibility of breast cancer in my pill package insert "**warning**" label.

Through my own research, I have found over 15 medical studies confirming the link between early onset of breast cancer and early and prolonged oral contraceptive use. One particularly notable study was a 1994 NCI study demonstrating an increased risk of *70%* of developing breast cancer before age 35 for women who used the pill before age 20 and who took it for at least 5 years. Additionally I have met several other brave young

women who like me, are breast cancer victims who used oral contraceptives containing sterodial estrogens for many years. Incidentally, breast cancer rates for younger women are rising; considering that approximately 11 million American women use oral contraceptives- this could be one of the reasons.

I never knew that I was ingesting a known human carcinogen every day for 10 years, and if I had known, I would not have used that method of contraception.
My particular brand of pill, (Nordette: manufactured by Wyeth-Averst) contained ethinyl estradiol. I am confident that my use of sterodial estrogens for 10 years played a significant role in the development of (and most likely caused) my cancer.
I am certainly not alone in this thinking, the data supports my theory. Women deserve to be warned of this preventable risk, please remember me (and the other approx. 182,000 women who will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001) to put a face on those statistics; the use of sterodial estrogens is NOT an acceptable risk.

Please accept this letter as part of the "public comment" which the NTP solicited regarding the potential placement of sterodial estrogens on the report. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica Bellenger

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