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 CERVIX

SANGDUEAN BOONCHAROEN : ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE USE AND ADENOCARCINOMA OF THE CERVIX. THESIS ADVISOR : JAYANTON PATUMANOND, D.Sc. (Clin. Epi.) KULAYA NARKSAWAT, M.P.H. (Urban Health) JONGKOL PODANG, M.Sc. (Public Health) WANPEN BENJACHAI, M.D. 141p. ISBN 974 - 589 - 377 - 3

A hospital-based case-control study was conducted in five government hospitals in Bangkok from August 1, 1996 to February 28, 1997 in order to determine the association between oral contraceptive use and adenocarcinoma of the cervix and to compare the effects of oral contraceptives on adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix. The case subjects were divided into 2 groups, 120 women with adenocarcinoma and 240 women with squamous cell carcinoma. Both groups represented new cases of invasive cervical cancer, histologically diagnosed since January, 1995. The control group were 240 women who came for pap smear examinations and were negative for malignancy. In the analytic process the adenocarcinoma and the squamous cell carcinoma groups were analyzed with the control group using a separate model. Conditional logistic regression was used to estimate the odds ratio.

After adjusting for confounding factors, oral contraceptive use was found to be associated with adenocarcinoma but not with squamous cell carcinoma. For women who used oral contraceptives continuously for more than 6 months the odds ratio was 1.68 (95% CI = 1.03-2.76) and for those who used for more than 4 years the odds ratio was 2.23 (95% CI = 1.27-3.90). The odds of developing adenocarcinoma were found to increase by 6 percent with each year of oral contraceptive use. These results support that oral contraceptive use increases the risk of developing cervical cancer, though possibly limited to adenocarcinoma only. Women who take oral contraceptives continuously more than 6 months or those who use them for a long time should have regular pap smear check ups. However, a more sophisticated research should be considered.