

Table 2.9. Cohort studies of combined estrogen–progestogen oral contraceptives and cutaneous malignant melanoma

Reference, location	Population cohort	Age (years)	No. of cases	Type of exposure	No. of cases	Relative risk (95% CI)	Comments
Beral et al. (1977); Ramcharan et al. (1981), USA	17 942 white women	17–59	22	Never used	8	NR	Walnut Creek Contraceptive Drug Study; hospital-based cases diagnosed in 1968–76; interviews based on postal, telephone and direct interviews; median follow-up, 6 years
				Ever used for < 4 years	8	NR	
				Ever used for ≥ 4 years	6	NR	
Vessey and Painter (2006), United Kingdom	17 032 married white women	25–39	94	Never used	40	1.0	Oxford Family Planning Association (1968–74); interviews based on postal questionnaire, telephone and home visits; maximum follow-up, 36 years; adjusted for age, parity, social class, tobacco smoking
				Ever use	54	0.8 (0.5–1.2)	
				<i>Duration of use</i> < 48 months	9	0.4 (0.2–0.9)	
				49–96 months	21	0.9 (0.5–1.5)	
Hannaforde et al. (2007), United Kingdom	46 000 women		146	Never used	50	1.0	Royal College of General Practitioners; based on questionnaires provided by physicians; maximum follow-up, 36 years; adjusted for age, parity, social class, tobacco smoking
				Ever use	96	0.92 (0.65–1.29)	
				<i>Duration of use</i> < 48 months	20	0.95 (0.54–1.64)	
				49–96 months	12	0.79 (0.41–1.53)	
				≥ 97 months	17	1.71 (0.96–3.06)	

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Feskanich et al. (1999), USA	183 693 premenopausal white women		252	Never used	64	1.0	Nurses' Health Study I and II; self-reported cases by nurses; adjusted for age, skin reaction to sun exposure; history of sunburn, mole counts, hair colour, family history of melanoma, parity, height, body mass index
				Ever use	374	1.4 (0.8–1.6)	
				Current use	23	2.0 (1.2–3.4)	
				< 10 years	9	1.0 (0.4–2.8)	
				≥ 10 years	14	3.4 (1.7–7.0)	
				Past use	165	1.1 (0.8–1.5)	
				< 5 years	98	1.0 (0.7–1.4)	
				5–9 years	47	1.2 (0.8–1.9)	
				≥ 10 years	18	1.4 (0.8–2.5)	

CI, confidence interval; NR, not reported