

**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)	
≥ 97 months	24	1.0 (0.6–1.7)					
Hannaford 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