

P1 A RANDOMIZED STUDY TO COMPARE THE EFFICACY OF TWO PREPARATIONS (A COMBINED CONTRACEPTIVE PILL VERSUS CONJUGATED ESTROGEN CREAM) INTRAVAGINALLY TO TREAT UROGENITAL SYMPTOMS IN POSTMENOPAUSAL THAI WOMEN.

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To determine whether the combined contraceptive pill used intravaginally was as effective as the standard conjugated estrogen cream for the treatment of urogenital symptoms in postmenopausal Thai women.

In a randomized clinical trial, 40 postmenopausal women with urogenital symptoms were randomly allocated to two treatment groups for 8 weeks. The first group (n = 20) received a combined contraceptive pill by the vaginal route, one tablet per week at bedtime for 8 weeks. Each tablet contained 250 µg levonorgestrel plus 30 µg ethinyl estradiol. The second group (n = 20) was given 1 gm of an intravaginal conjugated estrogen cream at bedtime, three times in the first week, twice in the second week, and then once a week for the next 6 weeks (1 gm of conjugated estrogen cream contained 0.625 mg conjugated equine estrogen). Subjects were questioned about their urogenital symptoms, and vaginal cytologic smears, vaginal bacteria cultures, and urine cultures were performed before treatment and after 2, 4 and 8 weeks of therapy.

The vaginal pH and the proportion of the fecal type bacteria decreased in both groups, with no statistically significant difference between the groups. The karyopyknotic index and the maturation index were improved during treatment in both groups. An increase in the proportion of lactobacilli were recorded in both groups after therapy, with no significant difference between the two groups. No significant changes were observed in urinary bacteria. The therapy (combined contraceptive pill and estrogen cream) had a marked effect on urogenital symptoms (vaginal dryness, dyspareunia, urinary frequency, and urinary urgency), with impressive improvement comparably in both groups.

A combined contraceptive tablet administered vaginally once a week can alleviate urogenital symptoms in Thai postmenopausal women as effectively as the vaginal estrogen cream. However, the pills are much less expensive and are easily obtained in developing countries.