Bayer HealthCare

SCHEDULING STATUS: S3

PROPRIETARY NAME AND DOSAGE FORM:

YASMIN®
Film-coated tablets

COMPOSITION:

The 28-day pack (Every-Day pack) contains 21 light yellow active film-coated tablets each with 3 mg drospirenone and 0,03 mg ethinylestradiol plus 7 white, inactive film-coated tablets.

Excipients:

Ferric oxide pigment yellow (E172), hydroxylpropylmethyl cellulose, lactose monohydrate, macrogol 6000, magnesium stearate, maize starch, povidone K25, pregelatinized starch, talc, titanium dioxide (E171).

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

A 18.8 Ovulation controlling agents

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:

Pharmacodynamic properties:

The contraceptive effect of YASMIN is based on the interaction of various factors, the most important of which are seen as the inhibition of ovulation and the changes in the cervical secretion. YASMIN is a combined oral contraceptive with ethinylestradiol and the progestogen drospirenone. In a therapeutic dosage, drospirenone also possesses antiandrogenic and mild antimineralocorticoid properties. It has no oestrogenic, glucocorticoid and antiglucocorticoid activity.

There are indications from clinical studies that the mild antimineralocorticoid properties of YASMIN result in a mild antimineralocorticoid effect.

With the use of the higher dosed combined oral contraceptives (50 µg ethinylestradiol) the risk of endometrial and ovarian cancer is reduced. Whether this also applies to lower dosed combined oral contraceptives remains to be confirmed.

Pharmacokinetic properties:

- Drospirenone

Absorption:

Orally administered drospirenone is rapidly and almost completely absorbed. Peak serum concentrations of approximately 37 ng/ml are reached at about 1 to 2 hours after single ingestion. Bioavailability is about 76 to 85 %. Concomitant ingestion of food has no influence on bioavailability.

Distribution:

Drospirenone is bound to serum albumin and does not bind to sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG) or corticoid binding globulin (CBG). Only 3 to 5 % of the total serum drug concentrations are present as free steroid, 95 to 97 % are non-specifically bound to albumin. The ethinylestradiol-induced increase in SHBG

does not influence the serum protein binding of drospirenone. The apparent volume of distribution of drospirenone is about 3,7 to 4,2 l/kg.

Metabolism:

Drospirenone is completely metabolised. The major metabolites in the plasma are the acid form of drospirenone, generated by opening of the lactone ring, and the 4,5-dihydro-drospirenone-3-sulphate, both of which are formed without involvement of the P450 system. Drospirenone is metabolised to a minor extent by cytochrome P450 3A4 based on *in vitro* data. The clearance rate from serum is about 1,2 to 1,5 ml/min/kg. When drospirenone was acutely co-administered with ethinylestradiol, no direct interaction was found.

Elimination:

Drospirenone serum levels decrease in two phases. The terminal disposition phase is characterised by a half-life of approximately 31 hours. Drospirenone is not excreted in unchanged form. Its metabolites are excreted at a biliary to urinary ratio of about 1,2 to 1,4. The half-life of metabolite excretion with the urine and faeces is about 1,7 days.

Steady-state conditions:

Drospirenone pharmacokinetics are not influenced by SHBG levels. Following daily ingestion drug serum levels increase about two to threefold reaching steady-state conditions during the second half of a treatment cycle.

Special populations:

Effect of renal impairment:

Steady-state serum drospirenone levels in women with mild renal impairment (creatinine clearance CLcr, 50 to 80 ml/minute) were comparable to those of women with normal renal function (CLcr, > 80 ml/minute). The serum drospirenone levels were on average 37 % higher in women with moderate renal impairment (CLcr, 30 to 50 ml/minute) compared to those in women with normal renal function. Drospirenone treatment was well tolerated by all groups. Drospirenone treatment did not show any clinically significant effect on serum potassium concentration. Severe renal impairment was not studied.

Effect of hepatic impairment:

In women with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B), mean serum drospirenone concentration-time profiles were comparable to those of women with normal hepatic function during the absorption/distribution phases, with similar C_{max} values.

The mean terminal half-life of drospirenone for the volunteers with moderate hepatic impairment was about 1,8 times greater than for the volunteers with normal hepatic function.

An about 50 % decrease in apparent oral clearance (CL/f) was seen in volunteers with moderate hepatic impairment as compared to those with normal liver function. The observed decline in drospirenone clearance in volunteers with moderate hepatic impairment compared to normal volunteers did not translate into any apparent difference in terms of serum potassium concentrations between the two groups of volunteers.

- Ethinylestradiol

Absorption:

Orally administered ethinylestradiol is rapidly and completely absorbed. Peak serum concentrations of about 54 to 100 pg/ml are reached within 1 to 2 hours. During absorption and first-liver passage, ethinylestradiol is metabolised extensively, resulting in a mean oral bioavailability of about 45 % with a

large interindividual variation of about 20 to 65 %. Concomitant intake of food reduced the bioavailability of ethinylestradiol in about 25 % of the investigated subjects while no change was observed in the others.

Distribution:

Ethinylestradiol is highly but non-specifically bound to serum albumin (approximately 98 %) and induces an increase in the serum concentrations of SHBG. An apparent volume of distribution of about 2,8 to 8,6 l/kg was determined.

Metabolism:

Ethinylestradiol is subject to presystemic conjugation in both the small bowel mucosa and the liver. Ethinylestradiol is primarily metabolised by aromatic hydroxylation but a wide variety of hydroxylated and methylated metabolites are formed, and these are present as free metabolites and as conjugates with glucuronides and sulphate. The clearance rate was reported to be about 2,3 to 7 ml/min/kg.

Elimination:

Ethinylestradiol serum levels decrease in two disposition phases characterised by half-lives of about 1 hour and 10 to 20 hours, respectively. Unchanged medicine is not excreted, ethinylestradiol metabolites are excreted at a urinary to biliary ratio of 4:6. The half-life of metabolite excretion is about 1 day.

Steady-state conditions:

Steady-state conditions are reached during the second half of a treatment cycle when serum drug levels are higher by 40 to 110 % as compared to single dose.

INDICATIONS:

Oral contraception.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS:

YASMIN should not be used in the presence of any of the conditions listed below. Should any of the conditions appear for the first time during YASMIN use, the product should be stopped immediately.

- Hereditary or acquired predisposition for venous or arterial thrombosis, such as activated protein C-resistance, antithrombin-III-deficiency, protein C deficiency, protein S deficiency, hyperhomocysteinemia and antiphospholipid antibodies (anticardiolipin-antibodies, lupus anticoagulant).
- Presence or a history of venous or arterial thrombotic/thromboembolic events (e.g. deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction) or of a cerebrovascular accident. Presence or history of prodroma of a thrombosis (e.g. transient ischaemic attack, angina pectoris).
- The presence of a severe or multiple risk factor(s) for venous or arterial thrombosis may also constitute a contra-indication (see “Warnings”).
- History of migraine with focal neurological symptoms.
- Diabetes mellitus with vascular involvement.
- Severe hepatic disease as long as liver function values have not returned to normal.
- Severe renal insufficiency or acute renal failure with a creatinine clearance of less than 30 ml/minute.
- Presence or history of liver tumours (benign or malignant).
- Known or suspected sex-steroid influenced malignancies (e.g. of the genital organs or the breasts).
- Undiagnosed vaginal bleeding.
- Known or suspected pregnancy.
- Hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients.

WARNINGS:

If any of the conditions/risk factors mentioned below are present, the benefits of YASMIN should be weighed against the possible risks for each individual woman and discussed with the woman before she decides to start using it. In the event of aggravation, exacerbation or first appearance of any of these conditions or risk factors, the woman should contact her medical practitioner. The medical practitioner should then decide on whether YASMIN's use should be discontinued.

Circulatory disorders:

Epidemiological studies have demonstrated an association between the use of combined oral contraceptives and an increased risk of arterial and venous thrombotic and thromboembolic diseases such as myocardial infarction, deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism and of cerebrovascular accidents.

The risk for venous thromboembolism is highest during the first year of use. This increased risk is present after initially starting a combined oral contraceptive or restarting (following a 4 week or greater pill free interval) the same or a different combined oral contraceptive. Data from a large, prospective 3-armed cohort study suggest that this increased risk is mainly present during the first 3 months.

Overall the risk for venous thromboembolism (VTE) in users of low combined oral contraceptives is two to threefold higher than for non-users of combined oral contraceptives who are not pregnant.

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) may be life-threatening or may have a fatal outcome (in 1 to 2 % of the cases).

The occurrence of thrombosis has been reported in other blood vessels, e.g. hepatic, mesenteric, renal, cerebral or retinal veins and arteries, in combined oral contraceptive including YASMIN users. There is no consensus as to whether the occurrence of these events is associated with the use of combined oral contraceptives such as YASMIN.

Symptoms of deep venous thrombosis (DVT) can include: unilateral swelling of the leg or along a vein in the leg; pain or tenderness in the leg which may be felt only when standing or walking, increased warmth in the affected leg; red or discolored skin on the leg.

Symptoms of pulmonary embolism (PE) can include: sudden onset of unexplained shortness of breath or rapid breathing; sudden coughing which may bring up blood; sharp chest pain which may increase with deep breathing; sense of anxiety; severe light headedness or dizziness; rapid or irregular heartbeat. Some of these symptoms (e.g. "shortness of breath", "coughing") are non-specific and might be misinterpreted as more common or less severe events (e.g. respiratory tract infections).

An arterial thromboembolic event can include cerebrovascular accident, vascular occlusion or myocardial infarction (MI). Symptoms of a cerebrovascular accident can include: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; sudden, severe or prolonged headache with no known cause; loss of consciousness or fainting with or without seizure. Other signs of vascular occlusion can include: sudden pain, swelling and slight blue discoloration of an extremity; acute abdomen.

Symptoms of myocardial infarction (MI) can include: pain, discomfort, pressure, heaviness, sensation of squeezing or fullness in the chest, arm, or below the breastbone; discomfort radiating to the back, jaw, throat, arm, stomach; fullness, indigestion or choking feeling; sweating, nausea, vomiting or dizziness; extreme weakness, anxiety, or shortness of breath; rapid or irregular heartbeats.

Arterial thromboembolic events may be life-threatening or may have a fatal outcome.

The risk of venous or arterial thrombotic/thromboembolic events or of a cerebrovascular accident increases with:

- age;
- smoking (with heavier smoking and increasing age the risk increases further, especially in women over 35 years of age);
- a positive family history (i.e. venous or arterial thromboembolism ever in a sibling or parent at a relatively early age). If a hereditary predisposition is known or suspected, the woman should be referred to a specialist for advice before deciding about any combined oral contraceptive use;
- obesity (body mass index over 30 kg/m^2);
- dyslipoproteinaemia;
- hypertension;
- migraine;
- valvular heart disease;
- atrial fibrillation;
- prolonged immobilisation, major surgery, any surgery to the legs, or major trauma. In these situations it is advisable to discontinue combined oral contraceptive use (in the case of elective surgery at least four weeks in advance) and not to resume until two weeks after complete remobilisation.

There is no consensus about the possible role of varicose veins and superficial thrombophlebitis in venous thromboembolism.

The increased risk of thromboembolism in the puerperium must be considered (see “Pregnancy and lactation”).

Other medical conditions which have been associated with adverse circulatory events include diabetes mellitus, systemic lupus erythematosus, haemolytic uraemic syndrome, chronic inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis) and sickle cell disease.

An increase in frequency or severity of migraine during combined oral contraceptive use (which may be prodromal of a cerebrovascular event) may be a reason for immediate discontinuation of the combined oral contraceptive.

Biochemical factors that may be indicative of hereditary or acquired predisposition for venous or arterial thrombosis include Activated Protein C (APC) resistance, hyperhomocysteinaemia, antithrombin-III deficiency, protein C deficiency, protein S deficiency, antiphospholipid antibodies (anticardiolipin antibodies, lupus anticoagulant).

Tumours:

The most important risk factor for cervical cancer is persistent human papilloma virus infection. Some epidemiological studies have indicated that long-term use of combined oral contraceptives may further contribute to this increased risk but there continues to be controversy about the extent to which this finding is attributable to confounding effects, e.g. cervical screening and sexual behaviour including use of barrier contraceptives.

A meta-analysis from 54 epidemiological studies reported that there is a slightly increased relative risk (RR = 1,24) of having breast cancer diagnosed in women who are currently using combined oral contraceptives. The excess risk gradually disappears during the course of the 10 years after cessation of combined oral contraceptive use. Because breast cancer is rare in women under 40 years of age, the excess number of breast cancer diagnoses in current and recent combined oral contraceptive users is small in relation to the overall risk of breast cancer.

Benign liver tumours, and malignant liver tumours have been reported in users of combined oral contraceptives. These tumours have led to life-threatening intra-abdominal haemorrhages. A hepatic tumour should be considered in the differential diagnosis when severe upper abdominal pain, liver enlargement or signs of intra-abdominal haemorrhage occur in women taking combined oral contraceptives.

Malignancies may be life-threatening or may have a fatal outcome.

Other conditions:

Potassium excretion capacity may be limited in patients with renal insufficiency. In a clinical study, drospirenone intake did not show an effect on the serum potassium concentration in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment. A theoretical risk for hyperkalaemia can be assumed only for patients with renal impairment whose pre-treatment serum potassium is in the upper reference range, and who are additionally using potassium sparing medicines.

Women with hypertriglyceridaemia, or a family history thereof, may be at an increased risk of pancreatitis when using YASMIN.

Small increases in blood pressure have been reported in many women taking combined oral contraceptives containing ethinylestradiol, clinically relevant increases may occur. If a sustained clinically significant hypertension develops during the use of YASMIN then it is prudent for the medical practitioner to withdraw YASMIN.

The following conditions have been reported to occur but the evidence of an association with YASMIN is inconclusive: jaundice and/or pruritus related to cholestasis; gallstone formation; porphyria; systemic lupus erythematosus; haemolytic uraemic syndrome; Sydenham's chorea; herpes gestationis; otosclerosis-related hearing loss.

In women with hereditary angioedema exogenous estrogens may induce or exacerbate symptoms of angioedema.

Acute or chronic disturbances of liver function may necessitate the discontinuation of YASMIN, until markers of liver function return to normal. Recurrence of cholestatic jaundice which occurred first during pregnancy or previous use of sex steroids necessitates the discontinuation of YASMIN.

Although YASMIN may have an effect on peripheral insulin resistance and glucose tolerance, there is no evidence for a need to alter the therapeutic regimen in diabetics using YASMIN, due to its low ethinylestradiol content of 0,03 mg. However, diabetic women should be carefully observed while taking YASMIN.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis have been associated with combined oral contraceptive use.

Chloasma may occasionally occur, especially in women with a history of chloasma gravidarum. Women with a tendency to chloasma should avoid exposure to the sun or ultraviolet radiation whilst taking YASMIN.

Respiratory: Asthma may deteriorate in women using YASMIN.

INTERACTIONS:

Effects of other medicines on YASMIN:

Interactions between YASMIN and other medicines (enzyme inducers, some antibiotics) may lead to breakthrough bleeding and/or contraceptive failure.

Substances diminishing the efficacy of combined oral contraceptives such as YASMIN (enzyme-inducers and antibiotics):

Enzyme induction (increase of hepatic metabolism):

Interactions can occur with medicines that induce microsomal enzymes, which can result in increased clearance of sex hormones (e.g. phenytoin, barbiturates, primidone, carbamazepine, rifampicin, and possibly also oxcarbazepine, topiramate, felbamate, griseofulvin and products containing St John's Wort).

Also HIV protease inhibitors (e.g. ritonavir) and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (e.g. nevirapine), and combinations of them, have been reported to potentially affect hepatic metabolism.

Antibiotics (interference with enterohepatic circulation):

Some clinical reports suggest that enterohepatic circulation of oestrogens may decrease when certain antibiotic agents are given, which may reduce ethinylestradiol concentrations (e.g. penicillins, tetracyclines).

Women on treatment with any of these medicines should temporarily use a barrier method in addition to YASMIN or choose another method of contraception. With microsomal enzyme-inducing medicines, the barrier method should be used during the time of concomitant medicine administration and for 28 days after their discontinuation. Women on treatment with antibiotics (except rifampicin and griseofulvin) should use the barrier method until 7 days after discontinuation. If the period during which the barrier method is used runs beyond the end of the active tablets in the YASMIN pack, the white inactive tablets should be omitted and the next YASMIN pack should be started with the yellow active tablet in the silver section (i.e. without the usual inactive tablet interval).

Substances interfering with the metabolism of combined oral contraceptives such as YASMIN (enzyme inhibitors):

The main metabolites of drospirenone in human plasma are generated without involvement of the cytochrome P450 system. Inhibitors of this enzyme system are therefore unlikely to influence the metabolism of drospirenone.

Effects of combined oral contraceptives such as YASMIN on other medicines:

YASMIN may affect the metabolism of certain other medicines. Accordingly, plasma and tissue concentrations may either increase (e.g. ciclosporin) or decrease (e.g. lamotrigine).

Based on in vitro inhibition studies and in vivo interaction studies in female volunteers using omeprazole, simvastatin and midazolam as marker substrates, an interaction of drospirenone at doses of 3 mg with the metabolism of other medicines is unlikely.

Other interactions:

There is a theoretical potential for an increase in serum potassium in women taking YASMIN with other medicines that may increase serum potassium levels. Such medicines include angiotensin-II-receptor antagonists, potassium-sparing diuretics, and aldosterone antagonists. However, in studies evaluating the interaction of drospirenone (combined with estradiol) with an ACE inhibitor or indomethacin, no clinically or statistically significant differences in serum potassium concentrations were observed.

Note: The prescribing information of concomitant medications should be consulted to identify potential interactions.

Laboratory tests:

The use of contraceptive steroids may influence the results of certain laboratory tests including biochemical parameters of liver, thyroid, adrenal and renal function, plasma levels of (carrier) proteins, e.g. corticosteroid-binding globulin and lipid/lipoprotein fractions, parameters of carbohydrate metabolism and parameters of coagulation and fibrinolysis. Changes generally remain within the normal laboratory range. Antimineralocorticoid activity of drospirenone causes an increase in plasma rennin activity and induces plasma aldosterone.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

YASMIN is not indicated during pregnancy. If pregnancy occurs during treatment with YASMIN, further intake must be stopped.

Lactation may be influenced by combined oral contraceptives as they may reduce the quantity and change the composition of breast milk. Therefore, the use of YASMIN is not recommended until the

breastfeeding mother has completely weaned her child. Small amounts of the contraceptive steroids and/or their metabolites may be excreted with the milk.

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

How to take YASMIN:

Combined oral contraceptives, when taken correctly, have a failure rate of approximately 1 % per year. The failure rate may increase when pills are missed or taken incorrectly.

The first course of YASMIN is started on the first day of the menstrual period (day 1 of the cycle) from the silver section of the pack by selecting the appropriate tablet for that day of the week (e.g. "MO" for Monday). The tablet is swallowed whole with some liquid. Thereafter one tablet must be taken daily for 28 days following the direction shown by the arrows. It does not matter at what time of the day the tablet is taken, but once the patient has selected a particular time, the tablet should be taken as near as possible at the same time each day. Withdrawal bleeding usually starts on day 2 to 3 after starting the inactive (hormone-free) tablets and may not have finished before the next pack is started. Each subsequent pack is started the day after the last tablet of the current pack. If a patient starts YASMIN during the latter part of the week, the very first cycle may be slightly shortened.

How to start YASMIN:

No preceding hormonal contraceptive use (in the past month):

Tablet-taking has to start on day 1 of the woman's natural cycle (i.e. the first day of her menstrual bleeding). Starting on days 2 to 5 is allowed, but during the first cycle a barrier method is recommended in addition for the first 7 days of tablet-taking.

Changing from a combined hormonal contraceptive (combined oral contraceptive), vaginal ring, or transdermal patch:

The woman should start with YASMIN preferably on the day after the last active tablet (the last tablet containing the active substances) of her previous combined oral contraceptive, but at the latest on the day following the usual tablet-free or inactive tablet interval of her previous combined oral contraceptive. In case a vaginal ring or transdermal patch has been used, the woman should start using YASMIN preferably on the day of removal, but at the latest when the next application would have been due.

Changing from a progestogen-only method (minipill, injection, implant) or from a progestogen-releasing intrauterine system (IUS):

The woman may switch any day from the minipill, from an implant or the intrauterine system on the day of its removal and from an injectable when the next injection would be due, but should in all of these cases be advised to additionally use an additional barrier method for the first 7 days of tablet-taking.

Following first-trimester abortion:

The woman may start immediately. When doing so, she need not take additional contraceptive measures.

Following delivery or second-trimester abortion:

For breastfeeding women see "Pregnancy and lactation".
Women should be advised to start at day 21 to 28 after delivery or second-trimester abortion. When starting later, the woman should be advised to additionally use a barrier method for the first 7 days of tablet-taking. However, if intercourse has already occurred, pregnancy should be excluded before the actual start of combined oral contraceptive use or the woman has to wait for her first menstrual period.

Management of missed tablets:

Missed hormone-free white film-coated tablets can be disregarded. However, they should be discarded to avoid unintentionally prolonging the hormone-free white tablet phase. The following advice only refers to **missed hormone-containing light yellow** film-coated tablets:

If the user is ***less than 12 hours*** late in taking any active tablet, contraceptive protection is not reduced. The woman should take the tablet as soon as she remembers and should take further tablets at the usual time.

If she is ***more than 12 hours*** late in taking any active tablet, contraceptive protection may be reduced. The management of missed tablets can be guided by the following two basic rules:

1. Active tablet-taking must never be discontinued for longer than 7 days;
2. 7 days of uninterrupted active tablet-taking are required to attain adequate suppression of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian-axis.

Accordingly the following advice can be given in daily practice:

First 7 days of active tablet-taking (Day 1 to 7):

The user should take the last missed tablet as soon as she remembers, even if this means taking two tablets at the same time. She then continues to take tablets at her usual time. In addition, a barrier method such as a condom should be used for the next 7 days. If intercourse took place in the preceding 7 days, the possibility of a pregnancy should be considered. The more tablets that are missed and the closer they are to the inactive tablet phase, the higher the risk of a pregnancy.

Second 7 days of active tablet-taking (Day 8 to 14):

The user should take the last missed tablet as soon as she remembers, even if this means taking two tablets at the same time. She then continues to take tablets at her usual time. Provided that the woman has taken her tablets correctly in the 7 days preceding the first missed tablet, there is no need to use extra contraceptive precautions. However, if this is not the case, or if she missed more than 1 tablet, the woman should be advised to use extra precautions for 7 days.

Third 7 days of active tablet-taking (Day 15 to 21):

The risk of reduced reliability is imminent because of the forthcoming inactive tablet phase. However, by adjusting the tablet-intake schedule, reduced contraceptive protection can still be prevented. If either of the following two options is adhered to, there is no need to use extra contraceptive precautions, provided that in the 7 days preceding the first missed tablet the woman has taken all tablets correctly. If this is not the case, the woman should be advised to follow the first of these two options, and also to use extra precautions for the next 7 days.

1. The user should take the last missed tablet as soon as she remembers, even if this means taking two tablets at the same time. She then continues to take tablets at her usual time until the active tablets are used up. The 7 inactive tablets must be discarded. The next pack must be started right away. The user is unlikely to have a withdrawal bleed until the end of the active tablets section of the second pack, but she may experience spotting or breakthrough bleeding on active tablet-taking days.
2. The woman may also be advised to discontinue active tablet-taking from the current pack. She should then have a tablet-free interval of up to 7 days, including the days she missed tablets, and subsequently continue with the next pack, starting in the silver section with the tablet for the appropriate day of the week.

If the woman missed active tablets and subsequently has no withdrawal bleed in the inactive tablet phase, the possibility of a pregnancy should be considered.

Inactive tablet-taking:

The white tablets are inactive tablets and missing these can be disregarded. However, they should be discarded to avoid unintentionally prolonging the inactive tablet phase.

Advice in case of gastrointestinal disturbances:

In case of severe gastrointestinal disturbances, absorption may not be complete and additional contraceptive measures should be taken.

If vomiting occurs within 3 to 4 hours after active tablet-taking, the advice concerning missed tablets is applicable. If the woman does not want to change her normal tablet-taking schedule, she must take the extra tablet(s) needed from another pack.

How to delay a period:

To delay a period the woman should continue with another pack of YASMIN without taking the inactive tablets from her current pack. The extension can be carried on for as long as wished until the end of the active tablets in the second pack. During the extension the woman may experience breakthrough bleeding or spotting. Regular intake of YASMIN is then resumed after the inactive tablet phase.

Additional information on special populations:

Children and adolescents:
YASMIN is only indicated after menarche. There are no data suggesting the need for a dosage adjustment.

Geriatric patients:
Not applicable. YASMIN is not indicated after menopause.

Patients with hepatic impairment:
YASMIN is contra-indicated in women with severe hepatic diseases. See also sections "Contra-indications" and "Pharmacokinetic properties".

Patients with renal impairment:
YASMIN is contra-indicated in women with severe renal insufficiency or acute renal failure. See also sections "Contra-indications" and "Pharmacokinetic properties".

SIDE EFFECTS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

Side effects:

The most serious adverse effects associated with the use of combined oral contraceptives are also listed under "Warnings".

The frequencies of side effects reported in clinical trials with YASMIN (n=4897) are summarised in the table below. Within each frequency grouping, side effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness. Frequencies are defined as common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10) and rare (≥ 1/10 000 to < 1/1000).

System organ class	***Common*** **(≥ 1/100)**	**Uncommon (≥ 1/1000 and < 1/100)**	**Rare (< 1/1000)**
Eye disorders			contact lens intolerance
Psychiatric disorders	depression/depressive mood emotional lability decrease and loss of libido		increased libido
Nervous system disorders	headache migraine		
Vascular disorders			venous and arterial thromboembolic events*

Gastrointestinal disorders	nausea abdominal pain	vomiting, diarrhoea	
Reproductive system and breast disorders	breast pain unscheduled uterine bleeding genital tract bleeding not further specified breast tenderness	breast hypertrophy	vaginal discharge breast discharge
Immune system disorders			hypersensitivity
Investigations	increased weight		decreased weight
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		fluid retention	
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders		rash, urticaria	erythema nodosum erythema multiforme

The following adverse reactions have been identified during postapproval use of YASMIN:

Vascular disorders: Venous and arterial thromboembolic events (peripheral deep venous occlusion, thrombosis and embolism/pulmonary vascular occlusion, thrombosis, embolism and infarction/myocardial infarction/cerebral infarction and stroke not specified as haemorrhagic).

Skin and subcutaneous disorders: Erythema multiforme, erythema nodosum.

Because these reactions are reported from a population of uncertain size it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to medicine exposure.

For venous and arterial thromboembolic events and migraine see also sections “Contra-indications” and “Warnings”.

Description of selected adverse reactions:

Adverse reactions with low frequency or with delayed onset of symptoms which are considered to be related to the group of combined oral contraceptives, including YASMIN, are listed below (see “Contra-indications”, and “Warnings”):

Tumours:

- The frequency of diagnosis of breast cancer is slightly increased among OC users. As breast cancer is rare in women under 40 years of age the excess number is small in relation to the overall risk of breast cancer.
- Liver tumours (benign and malignant)

Other conditions

- Women with hypertriglyceridaemia (increased risk of pancreatitis when using COCs).
- Hypertension.
- Occurrence or deterioration of conditions for which association with COC use is not conclusive: jaundice and/or pruritus related to cholestasis; gallstone formation; porphyria; systemic lupus erythematosus; haemolytic uremic syndrome; Sydenham’s chorea; herpes gestationis; otosclerosis-related hearing loss.
- In women with hereditary angioedema exogenous oestrogens may induce or exacerbate symptoms of angioedema.
- Liver function disturbances.
- Changes in glucose tolerance or effect on peripheral insulin resistance.
- Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis.
- Chloasma.

Special precautions:

Medical examination/consultation:

A complete medical history and physical examination should be taken prior to the initiation or reinstitution of combined oral contraceptive use, guided by the "Contra-indications" and "Warnings", and should be repeated periodically. Periodic medical assessment is also of importance because contra-indications (e.g. a transient ischaemic attack, etc.) or risk factors (e.g. a family history of venous or arterial thrombosis) may appear for the first time during the use of a combined oral contraceptive such as YASMIN. The frequency and nature of these assessments should be based on established practice guidelines and be adapted to the individual woman, but should generally include special reference to blood pressure, breasts, abdomen and pelvic organs, including cervical cytology.

Women should be advised that YASMIN does not protect against HIV infections (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Reduced efficacy:

The efficacy of combined oral contraceptives such as YASMIN may be reduced in the event of e.g. missed active tablets, gastrointestinal disturbances during active tablet taking (see "Dosage and directions for use") or concomitant medication (see "Interactions").

Reduced cycle control:

Irregular bleeding (spotting or breakthrough bleeding) may occur, especially during the first months of use. Therefore, the evaluation of any irregular bleeding is only meaningful after an adaptation interval of about three cycles.

If bleeding irregularities persist or occur after previously regular cycles, then non-hormonal causes should be considered and adequate diagnostic measures are indicated to exclude malignancy or pregnancy. These may include curettage.

In some women withdrawal bleeding may not occur during the inactive tablet phase. If YASMIN has been taken according to the directions described under "Dosage and directions for use", it is unlikely that the woman is pregnant. However, if YASMIN has not been taken according to these directions prior to the first missed withdrawal bleed or if two withdrawal bleeds are missed, pregnancy must be ruled out before YASMIN use is continued.

Lactose intolerance:

Each light yellow film-coated tablet of YASMIN contains 46 mg lactose per tablet and each white film-coated tablet contains 50 mg lactose per tablet. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption who are on a lactose-free diet should take this amount into consideration.

Effects on ability to drive or use machines:

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. No effects on ability to drive and use machines have been observed in users of YASMIN.

KNOWN SYMPTOMS OF OVERDOSAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT:

There has not been any clinical experience of overdose with YASMIN. There have been no reports of serious deleterious effects from overdose in preclinical studies. On this basis of general experience with combined oral contraceptives, symptoms that may occur in this case are: nausea, vomiting and, in young girls, slight vaginal bleeding. There are no antidotes and further treatment should be symptomatic.

Bayer HealthCare

IDENTIFICATION:

21 light yellow film-coated hormonal tablets plus 7 white film coated inactive tablets.

PRESENTATION:

Cartons containing 1 or 3 transparent PVC/aluminium blister strips, with each transparent PVC/aluminium blister strip containing 28 tablets (21 light yellow film-coated hormonal tablets plus 7 white film-coated inactive tablets).

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS:

Store at or below 25 °C.
Keep the blister strips in the original carton until required for use.
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

34/18.8/0494

NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION:

Bayer (Pty) Ltd
Reg. No.: 1968/011192/07
27 Wrench Road
ISANDO
1609

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS PACKAGE INSERT:

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