

The Adverse Effects on Women Taking Combined Oral Contraceptives

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Introduction

Combined oral contraceptives (COCs) are commonly prescribed in the field of women's health to prevent pregnancy and manage hormonal conditions. Newer research has begun to suggest that women on COCs may be at an increased risk to have health complications. The aim of this research was to identify if there was an association between women on COC and an increased likelihood of having complications or experiencing adverse events. 10 articles were included in the literature analysis to assess these potential risks.

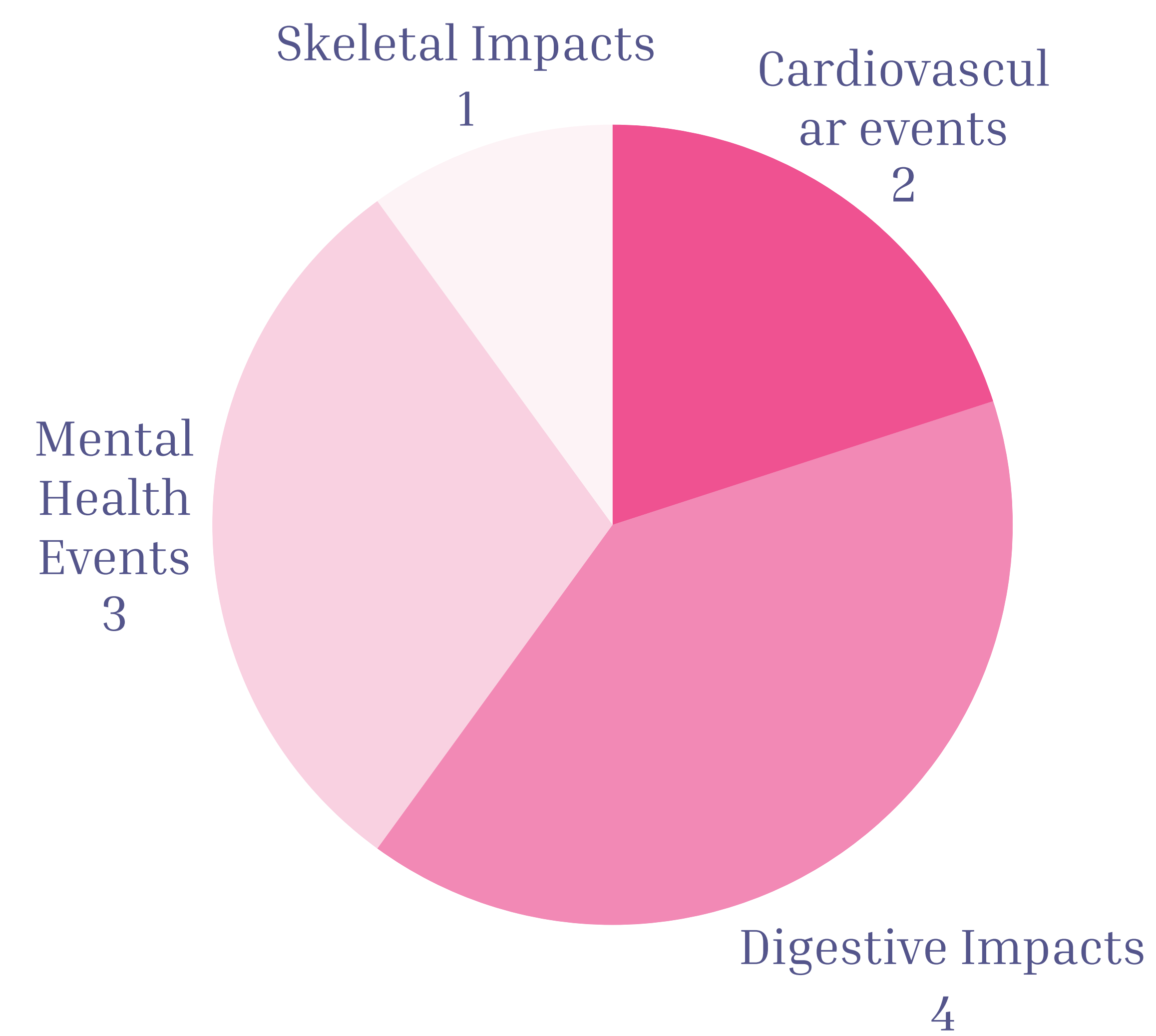
Methods

Medline, CINAHL complete, Academic Search Complete, and APA PsycINFO were utilized to find 10 research articles following the PECO criteria. Keywords included: "combined oral contraceptive" OR "COC", AND "woman" OR "women" OR "female" OR "females", AND "side effects" OR "adverse effects" OR "harmful effects" OR "complications" OR "risk factors" OR "incidence". Information was then extracted and organized into tables.



Results

The adverse events discussed across the 10 articles included were organized based upon the body system impacted, as seen in the chart on the right.



Discussion

The complications that can be associated with COCs should be approached with care and caution by physicians that are prescribing COCs to women. To negate or minimize potential complications, detailed medical history should be discussed as well as ordering routine blood work to monitor general homeostasis across the body.



Full text and references available through the QR code.