We are presenting you with 1 case study. Read the case history, and then click on the question and answer buttons to test your knowledge. When you are finished, you may click on the EXIT button at the bottom of the page.
BB is a 23-year-old healthy, non-smoking woman without medical complications. She has no contraindications for the use of oral contraceptives.

How is the decision made about which hormonal birth control method to prescribe?
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How is the decision made about which hormonal birth control method to prescribe?

Discuss all available and appropriate forms of birth control before deciding on the best method.

Oral contraceptive pills are very popular and effective but poor compliance results in a significant rate of pregnancy.

The transdermal contraceptive patch was developed to provide a similar reversible contraceptive with a more convenient dosing schedule that would enhance patient compliance and achieve high contraceptive efficacy.

Similarly the vaginal ring was developed with a convenient dosing schedule that would enhance patient compliance.
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How is the decision made about which oral contraceptive to prescribe for BB?
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How is the decision made about which oral contraceptive to prescribe for BB?

1. Use the lowest dose of oral contraceptives that will provide pregnancy protection, provide non-contraceptive benefits and minimize side effects.

2. Monophasic formulations should be ordered if cycle lengths are to be extended with elimination of some pill-free intervals.

3. Triphasic formulations may be preferable to reduce certain pill side effects when it is not desirable to increase hormone levels throughout the entire cycle or when it is desirable to reduce total cycle progestin levels.
BB is a 23-year-old healthy, non-smoking woman without medical complications. She has no contraindications for the use of oral contraceptives.

When during her cycle should BB begin her oral contraceptives?
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When during her cycle should BB begin her oral contraceptives?

BB should start the first cycle of OCs according to the manufacturer’s package instructions or according to one of the following recommendations:

Take the first tablet on the first day of menses; this avoids the risk of early ovulation and the need to use alternative methods of contraception.

Take the first tablet on the first Sunday after the beginning of menstruation and use alternative method of contraception for the first 7 days.

Take the first pill on the day of the visit. A back–up method of contraception is recommended for 7 days.
BB is a 23-year-old healthy, non-smoking woman without medical complications. She has no contraindications for the use of oral contraceptives.

When is the optimal time to take oral contraceptives during the day?
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When is the optimal time to take oral contraceptives during the day?

BB should take the oral contraceptive at the same time each day.
BB is a 23-year-old healthy, non-smoking woman without medical complications. She has no contraindications for the use of oral contraceptives.

What should BB do to avoid chloasma?
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What should BB do to avoid chloasma?

BB should use a sunscreen with a SPF of 15 to prevent chloasma. In general, she should avoid sunbathing and wear protective clothing when sun exposure can not be avoided.
BB is a 23-year-old healthy, non-smoking woman without medical complications. She has no contraindications for the use of oral contraceptives.

What should BB do if she forgets to take her oral contraceptive pills?
What should BB do if she forgets to take her oral contraceptive pills?

1. If one pill is missed, it should be taken as soon as she remembers. The next pill should be taken at the regular time – which may mean two pills are taken on the same day. Alternative methods of birth control are unnecessary.

2. If 2 pills in a row in week one or two of her pack are missed, she should take two pills on the day she remembers and two pills the next day. An alternative method of contraception should be utilized for seven days after missing the pills.

3. If 2 two pills in a row in the third week are missed,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For “day one” starters, she must</th>
<th>For “Sunday” starters, she must</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discard the rest of the pack,</td>
<td>Keep taking one pill every day until Sunday,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start a new pack on that same day, and</td>
<td>Start a new pack on Sunday, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use an alternative method of contraception for 7 days</td>
<td>Use an alternative method of contraception for 7 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>She may not have her period this month, but this is expected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. If 3 or more pills in a row are missed during the first three weeks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For “day one” starters, she must</th>
<th>For “Sunday” starters, she must</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discard the rest of her pack, and</td>
<td>Keep taking one pill every day until Sunday,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start a new pack that same day</td>
<td>Start a new pack on Sunday, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use an alternative method of contraception for 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>She may not have a period this month.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. If she becomes sick and has diarrhea or vomiting for several days she should use another method of contraception until her next period.

Question 1 | Question 2 | Question 3 | Question 4 | Question 5 | Question 6