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Drospirenone is a synthetic form of the hormone progestin that is combined in pill form with another hormone—ethinyl estradiol—to prevent pregnancy. Drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol combination pills are sold under several brand names, including <u>Yaz and Yasmin</u>, Ocella, Loryna, Gianvi and Beyaz.

In addition to being prescribed as a contraceptive, drospirenone can be used to treat moderate acne (in cases where the patient also wishes to prevent pregnancy) and premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD). PMDD is a more severe form of PMS that can cause extreme emotional and physical symptoms about two weeks before a woman begins her period.

Multiple studies have warned that women who use birth control pills containing drospirenone face an increased risk of <u>blood clots</u>. According to two studies published by the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ), patients taking birth control with drospirenone are twice as likely to suffer <u>blood clots</u> as patients who are prescribed another brand of contraceptives.

In response to these findings, a Food and Drug Administration panel voted to issue a stronger <u>warning about the danger of blood clots</u> for patients taking drospirenone birth control pills. This increased blood clot risk can place patients at risk of other serious conditions, including <u>deep vein thrombosis (DVT)</u>, <u>pulmonary embolism (PE)</u>, <u>heart attack</u> and <u>stroke</u>.

More than 10,000 lawsuits have been filed by patients who suffered blood clots or other injuries after using <u>Yaz or Yasmin birth control pills</u>. Patients who were injured after taking Yaz, Yasmin or Ocella may still be able to file a <u>lawsuit</u> against the manufacturers of these drugs.

To receive a free legal consultation and find out if you qualify to file a lawsuit, contact the <u>lawyers</u> at <u>Hissey Kientz, LLP</u>. You can reach us by calling toll-free at 1-866-275-4454, or by filling out a free case evaluation form.