

PROGESTIN-ONLY PILLS

- Ovrette® (norgestrel) pills – 0.075mg
- Jolivette® (norethindrone) pills – 0.35mg
- Micronor® (norethindrone) pills – 0.35mg
- Nora-Be® (norethindrone) pills – 0.35mg
- Nor-QD® (norethindrone) pills – 0.35mg
- Camila™ (norethindrone) pills – 0.35mg
- Errin™ (norethindrone) pills – 0.35mg

The limited data in the WCC database regarding the use of these orally active progestin-only contraceptives is primarily for great apes and a few Old World monkeys.

Manufacturer – See brand details and the list of manufacturers: [BC Pills](#)

Product information – A progestin-only oral contraceptive pill consists of synthetic progesterone, either norgestrel or norethindrone, without estrogen.

Latency to effectiveness - As with implants and injections, separation or alternative contraception should be used for 1-2 weeks after initiation of treatment.

Estrous cycles during contraceptive treatment - Synthetic progestins may effect contraception by blocking ovulation, causing thickening of cervical mucus, slowing ovum transport, and/or interfering with fertilization or implantation. However, follicle growth may continue and sometimes be accompanied by estradiol production sufficient to cause estrous behavior. Ovulation may occur even though pregnancy does not ensue. Higher progestin doses may be preferred, so that estrous behavior is prevented, but may not be effective in completely suppressing follicle growth and some estradiol production.

Duration of efficacy and reversibility - Duration of efficacy may not be much more than one day, so pills must be administered daily. Following cessation of treatment, rapid clearance can result in ovulation within a few days, but actual latency to conception will vary by individual.

Use during pregnancy - Progestins are not recommended in pregnant animals because of the possibility of prolonged gestation, stillbirth, abortion, etc. in some species, although the effect may depend on dose. Progestins in late pregnancy seem not to interfere with parturition in primates, but this is a taxon-specific phenomenon.

Use during lactation - Progestins are sometimes prescribed for lactating women and are considered generally safe for nursing infants.

Use in pre-pubertals or juveniles - Future reproduction was not affected in calves of domestic cows on MGA-treated feed (another synthetic progestin), but no studies of pre-pubertal treatment with MGA or other progestins have been conducted with other species, so possible long-term effects on fertility are not known.

Consideration for seasonal breeders - Treatment should begin at least one month before the anticipated onset of the breeding season.

Precautions – Progestins likely cause weight gain in all species. Possible deleterious effects on uterine and mammary tissues vary greatly by species; see cautions for each taxon.

Reporting requirements - All institutions using Progestin-only pills are asked to submit a complete [Contraception Center Survey](#) to the AZA Wildlife Contraception Center. It is essential that accurate records of doses and intervals be maintained and results reported to the Wildlife Contraception Center Database to contribute to dosage development.

Please submit surveys to:

Sally Boutelle, Program Coordinator
AZA Wildlife Contraception Center
Saint Louis Zoo
1 Government Drive
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-646-4595; fax: 314-646-5534
Contraception@stlzoo.org