

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

**LEVONORGESTREL and ETHINYL ESTRADIOL tablets for oral use**  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1982

**WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS**

*See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.*

- **Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are contraindicated in women over 35 years old who smoke. (4)**
- **Cigarette smoking increases the risk of serious cardiovascular events from combination oral contraceptive (COC) use. (5.1)**

**RECENT MAJOR CHANGES**

Contraindications, Pregnancy (4)	Removed 01/2023
Warning and Precautions, Malignant Neoplasms (5.11)	04/2022

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablet is a combination of levonorgestrel, a progestin, and ethinyl estradiol an estrogen indicated for use by females of reproductive potential to prevent pregnancy. (1)

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- Take one tablet daily by mouth at the same time every day for 91 days. (2.1)
- Take tablets in the order directed on the Extended-Cycle Wallet. (2.2)

**DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets USP consists of 84 pink, round, biconvex, film-coated tablets, each containing 0.15 mg of levonorgestrel and 0.03 mg of ethinyl estradiol, and 7 white to off white, round, biconvex, inert tablets. (3)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- A high risk of arterial or venous thrombotic diseases (4)
- Liver tumors or liver disease, acute viral hepatitis or decompensated cirrhosis (4)
- Undiagnosed abnormal uterine bleeding (4)
- Breast cancer (4)
- Co-administration with Hepatitis C drug combinations containing ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, with or without dasabuvir (4)

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- **Vascular risks:** Stop if a thrombotic or thromboembolic event occurs. Stop at least 4 weeks before and through 2 weeks after major surgery. Start no earlier than 4 weeks after delivery, in women who are not breastfeeding. Consider cardiovascular risk factors before initiating in all females, particularly those over 35 years. (5.1, 5.5)
- **Liver disease:** Discontinue if jaundice occurs. (5.2)
- **Hypertension:** If used in women with well-controlled hypertension, monitor blood pressure and stop if blood pressure rises significantly. (5.4)
- **Gallbladder disease:** May cause or worsen gallbladder disease. (5.5)
- **Adverse carbohydrate and lipid effects:** Monitor glucose in prediabetic and diabetic women taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. Consider an alternate contraceptive method for women with uncontrolled dyslipidemia. (5.7)
- **Headache:** Evaluate significant change in headaches and discontinue if indicated. (5.8)
- **Uterine bleeding:** May cause irregular bleeding or amenorrhea. Evaluate for other causes if symptoms persist. (5.9)

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

The most common adverse reactions (≥2%) reported during clinical trials were headache, menorrhagia, nausea, dysmenorrhea, acne, migraine, breast tenderness, weight increased, and depression. (6.1)

**To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1-800-399-2561 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).**

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

Enzyme inducers (e.g.CYP3A4): May decrease the effectiveness of Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets or increase breakthrough bleeding. Counsel patients to use a back-up or alternative method of contraception when enzyme inducers are used with Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. (7.1)

**USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

- **Pregnancy:** Discontinue if pregnancy occurs. (8.1)
- **Lactation:** Advise use of another contraceptive method. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets can decrease milk production. (8.2)

**See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.**

**Revised: 03/2025**

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## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

**WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS**  
Cigarette smoking increases the risk of serious cardiovascular events from combination oral contraceptive (COC) use. This risk increases with age, particularly in women over 35 years of age, and with the number of cigarettes smoked. For this reason, COCs, including Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, are contraindicated in women who are over 35 years of age and smoke [see Contraindications (4) and Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].

### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are indicated for use by females of reproductive potential to prevent pregnancy.

### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### 2.1 How to Start and Take Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are dispensed in an Extended-Cycle Wallet [see How Supplied/Storage and Handling (16)]. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets should be started on a Sunday (see Table 1). For the first cycle of a Sunday Start regimen, an additional method of contraception should be used until after the first 7 consecutive days of administration.

**Table 1: Instructions for Administration of Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets**

<p><b>Starting Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets in females with no current use of hormonal contraception (Sunday Start)</b></p> <p><b>Important:</b> Consider the possibility of ovulation and conception prior to initiation of this product.</p> <p><b>Tablet Color:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol active tablets are pink (Day 1 to Day 84).</li><li>Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol inactive tablets are white (Day 85 to Day 91).</li></ul>	<p><b>Sunday Start:</b> <b>For each 91-day course, take in the following order:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take the first <b>pink</b> tablet (0.15 mg of levonorgestrel and 0.03 mg ethinyl estradiol) on the first Sunday after the onset of menstruation. If menstruation begins on a Sunday, take the tablet on that day. <b>Due to the potential risk of becoming pregnant, use additional non-hormonal contraception (such as condoms or spermicide) for the first 7 days of treatment.</b></li><li>Take subsequent pink tablets once daily at the same time each day for a total of 84 days.</li><li>Take one <b>white</b> tablet (inert) daily for the following 7 days and at the same time of day that active tablets were taken. A scheduled period should occur during the 7 days that the white tablets are taken.</li><li>Begin the next and all subsequent 91-day courses of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets without interruption on the same day of the week (Sunday) on which the patient began her first dose. Follow the same schedule as the initial 91-day course: a pink tablet once a day for 84 days, and a white tablet once a day for 7 days. If the patient does not immediately start her next pill pack, instruct her to protect herself from pregnancy by using a non-hormonal back-up method of contraception until she has taken a pink tablet daily for 7 consecutive days.</li></ul>
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<b>Switching from another contraceptive method to levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets</b>	<b>Start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets:</b>
<b>Another oral contraceptive</b>	On the day when the new pack of the previous COC would have been started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transdermal patch</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the day when the next application would have been scheduled.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vaginal ring</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the day when the next insertion would have been scheduled.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Injection</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the day when the next injection would have been scheduled.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Intrauterine contraceptive (IUD)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the day of removal.</li> <li>• If the IUD is not removed on first day of the patient's menstrual cycle, additional non-hormonal contraception (such as condoms or spermicide) is needed for the first seven days of the first 91-day course.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Implant</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the day of removal.</li> </ul>

### **Starting Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets after Abortion or Miscarriage**

#### ***First-trimester***

- After a first-trimester abortion or miscarriage, levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may be started immediately. An additional method of contraception is not needed if levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are started immediately.
- If levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are not started within 5 days after termination of the pregnancy, the patient should use additional non-hormonal contraception (such as condoms or spermicide) for the first seven days of her first 91-day course of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

#### ***Second-trimester***

- Do not start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets until 4 weeks after a second-trimester abortion or miscarriage, due to the increased risk of thromboembolic disease. Start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets following the instructions in Table 1 for Sunday start. Use additional non-hormonal contraception (such as condoms or spermicide) for the first seven days of the patient's first 91-day course of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets [*see Contraindications (4), Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]

### **Starting Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets after Childbirth**

- Do not start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets until 4 weeks after delivery, due to the increased risk of thromboembolic disease. Start contraceptive therapy with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets following the instructions in Table 1 for women not currently using hormonal contraception.
- Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are not recommended for use in lactating women [*see Use in Specific Populations (8.2)*].
- If the woman has not yet had a period postpartum, consider the possibility of ovulation and conception occurring prior to use of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets [*see Contraindications (4), Warnings and Precautions (5.1), Use in Specific Populations (8.1 and 8.2)*].

## 2.2 Dosing Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets

Instruct patients to take one tablet by mouth at the same time every day. The dosing of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is one pink pill containing levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol daily for 84 consecutive days, followed by one white pill (inactive pills without hormone) for 7 days. To achieve maximum contraceptive effectiveness, levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets must be taken exactly as directed, in the order directed on the Tablet Dispenser, and at intervals not exceeding 24 hours. Start taking the first pink pill from a new Tablet Dispenser the very next day after taking the last white inactive pill in the Tablet Dispenser. The failure rate may increase when pills are missed or taken incorrectly.

## 2.3 Missed Doses

**Table 2: Instructions for Missed Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If one active tablet (pink) is missed in Days 1 through 84</li></ul>	Take the tablet as soon as possible. Take the next tablet at the regular time and continue taking one tablet a day until the 91-day course is finished.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If two consecutive active tablets (pink) are missed in Days 1 through 84</li></ul>	Take 2 tablets on the day remembered and 2 tablets the next day. Then continue taking one tablet a day until the 91-day course is finished. <b>Additional non-hormonal contraception (such as condoms or spermicide) should be used as back-up if the patient has sex within 7 days after missing tablets.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If three or more consecutive active tablets (pink) are missed in Days 1 through 84</li></ul>	Do not take the missed tablets. Continue taking one tablet a day until the 91-day course is finished. <b>Additional non-hormonal contraception (such as condoms or spermicide) must be used as back-up if the patient has sex within 7 days after missing tablets.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If any of the seven white (inactive) tablets are missed</li></ul>	Throw away the missed tablets. Continue taking the remaining tablets until the pack is finished. A backup birth control method is not needed.

## 2.4 Advice in Case of Gastrointestinal Disturbances

In case of severe vomiting or diarrhea, absorption may not be complete and additional contraceptive measures should be taken. If vomiting or diarrhea occurs within 3 to 4 hours after taking a pink tablet, handle this as a missed tablet.

## 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets USP are available in Extended-Cycle Wallets, each containing a 13-week supply of tablets in the following order:

- 84 pink, round, biconvex, film-coated tablets, each containing 0.15 mg of levonorgestrel and 0.03 mg ethinyl estradiol; debossed with LU on one side and U21 on the other side
- 7 white to off white, round, biconvex, inert tablets debossed with LU on one side and U22 on the other side.

## 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol Tablets is contraindicated in females who are known to have or develop the following conditions:

- A high risk of arterial or venous thrombotic diseases. Examples include females who are known to:
  - Smoke, if over age 35 [*see Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
  - Have current or history of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
  - Have cerebrovascular disease [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
  - Have coronary artery disease [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
  - Have thrombogenic valvular or thrombogenic rhythm diseases of the heart (for example, subacute bacterial endocarditis with valvular disease, or atrial fibrillation) [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
  - Have inherited or acquired hypercoagulopathies [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
  - Have uncontrolled hypertension or hypertension with vascular disease [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*].
  - Have diabetes mellitus and are over age of 35, diabetes mellitus with hypertension or vascular disease or other end-organ damage, or diabetes mellitus of >20 years duration [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.7)*].
    - Have headaches with focal neurological symptoms, migraine headaches with aura, or over age 35 with any migraine headaches [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.8)*].
- Current diagnosis of, or history of breast cancer, which may be hormone sensitive [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.11)*].
- Liver tumors, acute viral hepatitis, or severe (decompensated) cirrhosis [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.2) and Use in Specific Populations (8.6)*].
- Undiagnosed abnormal uterine bleeding [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.9)*].
- Use of Hepatitis C drug combinations containing ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, with or without dasabuvir, due to the potential for ALT elevations [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.3)*].

## 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### 5.1 Thromboembolic Disorders and Other Vascular Conditions

- Stop levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if an arterial or venous thrombotic/thromboembolic event occurs.
- Stop levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if there is unexplained loss of vision, proptosis, diplopia, papilledema, or retinal vascular lesions. Evaluate for retinal vein thrombosis immediately.
- Discontinue levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets during prolonged immobilization. If feasible, stop levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets at least 4 weeks before and through 2 weeks after major surgery or other surgeries known to have an elevated risk of thromboembolism.
- Start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets no earlier than 4 weeks after delivery, in females who are not breastfeeding. The risk of postpartum thromboembolism decreases after the third postpartum week, whereas the likelihood of ovulation increases after the third postpartum week.

- Before starting levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets evaluate any past medical history or family history of thrombotic or thromboembolic disorders and consider whether the history suggests an inherited or acquired hypercoagulopathy. levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in females with a high risk of arterial or venous thrombotic/thromboembolic diseases [*see Contraindications (4)*].

#### Arterial Events

COCs increase the risk of cardiovascular events and cerebrovascular events, such as myocardial infarction and stroke. The risk is greater among older women (> 35 years of age), smokers, and females with hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes, or obesity.

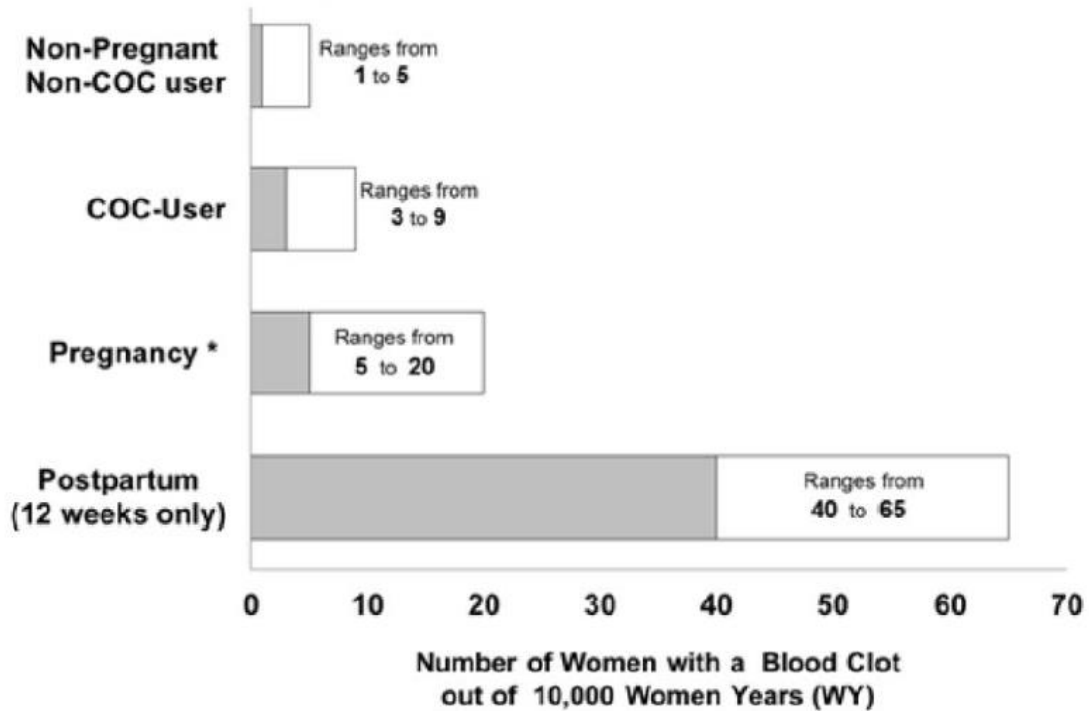
Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in women over 35 years of age who smoke [*see Contraindications (4)*]. Cigarette smoking increases the risk of serious cardiovascular events from COC use. This risk increases with age, particularly in women over 35 years of age, and with the number of cigarettes smoked.

#### Venous Events

- Use of COCs increases the risk of venous thromboembolic events (VTEs), such as deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. Risk factors for VTEs include smoking, obesity, and family history of VTE, in addition to other factors that contraindicate use of COCs [*see Contraindications (4)*]. While the increased risk of VTE associated with use of COCs is well-established, the rates of VTE are even greater during pregnancy, and especially during the postpartum period (see Figure 1). The rate of VTE in females using COCs has been estimated to be 3 to 9 cases per 10,000 woman-years. The risk of VTE is highest during the first year of use of a COC and when restarting hormonal contraception after a break of four weeks or longer. The risk of thromboembolic disease due to COCs gradually disappears after COC use is discontinued.

Figure 1 shows the risk of developing a VTE for females who are not pregnant and do not use oral contraceptives, for females who use oral contraceptives, for pregnant females and for females in the postpartum period. To put the risk of developing a VTE into perspective: If 10,000 females who are not pregnant and do not use oral contraceptives are followed for one year, between 1 and 5 of these females will develop a VTE.

Figure 1: Likelihood of Developing a VTE



\* Pregnancy data based on actual duration of pregnancy in the reference studies. Based on a model assumption that pregnancy duration is nine months, the rate is 7 to 27 per 10,000 WY.

Use of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets provide women with more hormonal exposure on a yearly basis than conventional monthly COCs containing the same strength synthetic estrogens and progestins (an additional 9 weeks of exposure per year). In the clinical trial, one case of pulmonary embolism was reported. Postmarketing adverse reactions of VTE have been reported in women who used levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

## 5.2 Liver Disease

### Elevated Liver Enzymes

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in females with acute viral hepatitis or severe (decompensated) cirrhosis of the liver [see *Contraindications (4)*]. Acute liver test abnormalities may necessitate the discontinuation of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets until the liver tests return to normal and levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets causation has been excluded.

Discontinue levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if jaundice develops.

### Liver Tumors

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are contraindicated in females with benign and malignant liver tumors [see *Contraindications (4)*]. COCs increase the risk of hepatic adenomas. An estimate of the attributable risk is 3.3 cases/100,000 COC users. Rupture of hepatic adenomas may cause death through intra-abdominal hemorrhage.



Studies have shown an increased risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma in long-term (> 8 years) COC users. The attributable risk of liver cancers in COC users is less than one case per million users.

### **5.3 Risk of Liver Enzyme Elevations with Concomitant Hepatitis C Treatment**

During clinical trials with the Hepatitis C combination drug regimen that contains ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, with or without dasabuvir, ALT elevations greater than 5 times the upper limit of normal (ULN), including some cases greater than 20 times the ULN, were significantly more frequent in women using ethinyl estradiol-containing medications, such as levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. Discontinue levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets prior to starting therapy with the combination drug regimen ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, with or without dasabuvir [see *Contraindications (4)*]. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets can be restarted approximately 2 weeks following completion of treatment with the Hepatitis C combination drug regimen.

### **5.4 Hypertension**

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets are contraindicated in females with uncontrolled hypertension or hypertension with vascular disease [see *Contraindications (4)*]. For all women, including those with well-controlled hypertension, monitor blood pressure at routine visits and stop levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if blood pressure rises significantly.

An increase in blood pressure has been reported in females taking COCs, and this increase is more likely in older women and with extended duration of use. The effect of COCs on blood pressure may vary according to the progestin in the COC.

### **5.5 Age-related Considerations**

The risk for cardiovascular disease and prevalence of risk factors for cardiovascular disease increase with age. Certain conditions, such as smoking and migraine headache without aura, that do not contraindicate COC use in younger females, are contraindications to use in women over 35 years of age [see *Contraindications (4)* and *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]. Consider the presence of underlying risk factors that may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease or VTE, particularly before initiating levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets for women over 35 years, such as:

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Dyslipidemia
- Obesity

### **5.6 Gallbladder Disease**

Studies suggest a small increased relative risk of developing gallbladder disease among COC users. Use of COCs, including levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may worsen existing gallbladder disease.

A past history of COC-related cholestasis predicts an increased risk with subsequent COC use. Females with a history of pregnancy-related cholestasis may be at an increased risk for COC-related cholestasis.

## **5.7 Adverse Carbohydrate and Lipid Metabolic Effects**

### Hyperglycemia

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in diabetic women over age 35, or females who have diabetes with hypertension, nephropathy, retinopathy, neuropathy, other vascular disease or females with diabetes of >20 years of duration [see *Contraindications (4)*]. levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may decrease glucose tolerance. Carefully monitor prediabetic and diabetic females who are using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

### Dyslipidemia

Consider alternative contraception for females with uncontrolled dyslipidemia. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may cause adverse lipid changes.

Females with hypertriglyceridemia, or a family history thereof, may have an increase in serum triglyceride concentrations when using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, which may increase the risk of pancreatitis.

## **5.8 Headache**

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in females who have headaches with focal neurological symptoms or have migraine headaches with aura, and in women over age 35 years who have migraine headaches with or without aura [see *Contraindications (4)*].

If a female taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets develop new headaches that are recurrent, persistent, or severe, evaluate the cause and discontinue levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if indicated.

Consider discontinuation of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if there is an increased frequency or severity of migraine during COC use (which may be prodromal of a cerebrovascular event) [see *Contraindications (4)*].

## **5.9 Bleeding Irregularities and Amenorrhea**

Bleeding and/or spotting that occurs at any time while taking the first 84 tablets of each extended-cycle regimen is considered “unscheduled” bleeding/spotting. Bleeding that occurs during the time a woman takes the seven white inert tablets is considered “scheduled” bleeding.

### Unscheduled Bleeding and Spotting

Females using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may experience unscheduled (breakthrough or intracyclic) bleeding and spotting especially during the first 3 months of use. Bleeding irregularities may resolve over time or by changing to a different contraceptive product. If unscheduled bleeding persists or occurs after previously regular cycles evaluate for causes such as pregnancy or malignancy.

Before prescribing levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, advise the woman to weigh the occurrence of fewer scheduled menses (4 per year instead of 13 per year) against the occurrence of increased unscheduled bleeding and/or spotting.

The clinical trial of the efficacy of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets (91-day cycles) in preventing pregnancy also assessed scheduled and unscheduled bleeding. The participants in the study were composed primarily of women who had used oral contraceptives previously as opposed to new users. Women with a history of breakthrough bleeding/spotting  $\geq 10$  consecutive days on oral contraceptives were excluded from the study. More levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets subjects, compared to subjects on the comparator 28-day cycle regimen, discontinued prematurely for unacceptable bleeding (7.7% [levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets] vs. 1.8% [28-day cycle regimen]).

Unscheduled bleeding and unscheduled spotting decreased over successive 91-day cycles. Table 3 below presents the number of days with unscheduled bleeding and/or spotting for each respective 91-day cycle.

**Table 3: Number of Unscheduled Bleeding and/or Spotting Days per 91-day Cycle**

Cycle (N)	Days of Unscheduled Bleeding and/or Spotting per 84-Day Interval				Median Days Per Subject-Month
	Mean	Q1	Median	Q3	
1 (446)	15.1	3.0	12	23.0	3.0
2 (368)	11.6	2.0	6	17.5	1.5
3 (309)	10.6	1.0	6	15.0	1.5
4 (282)	8.8	1.0	4	14.0	1.0

Q1=Quartile 1: 25% of women had  $\leq$  this number of days of unscheduled bleeding/spotting

Median: 50% of women had  $\leq$  this number of days of unscheduled bleeding/spotting

Q3=Quartile 3: 75% of women had  $\leq$  this number of days of unscheduled bleeding/spotting

Table 4 shows the percentages of women with  $\geq 7$  days and  $\geq 20$  days of unscheduled spotting and/or bleeding in the levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and the 28-day cycle treatment groups.

**Table 4: Percentage of Subjects with Unscheduled Bleeding and/or Spotting**

Days of unscheduled bleeding and/or spotting	Percentage of Subjects <sup>a</sup>	
	Cycle 1 (N=385)	Cycle 4 (N=261)
<b>Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets</b>		
$\geq 7$ days	65%	42%
$\geq 20$ days	35%	15%
<b>28-day regimen</b>	Cycles 1 to 4 (N=194)	Cycles 10 to 13 (N=158)
$\geq 7$ days	38%	39%
$\geq 20$ days	6%	4%

a Based on spotting and/or bleeding on days 1 to 84 of a 91 day cycle in the levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets subjects and days 1 to 21 of a 28 day cycle over 4 cycles in the 28-day dosing regimen.

Total days of bleeding and/or spotting (scheduled plus unscheduled) were similar over one year of treatment for levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets subjects and subjects on the 28-day cycle regimen.

### Amenorrhea and Oligomenorrhea

Females who use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may experience absence of scheduled (withdrawal) bleeding, even if they are not pregnant. Based on data from the clinical trial of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, amenorrhea occurred in approximately 0.8% of females during Cycle 1, 1.2% of females during Cycle 2, 3.7% of females during Cycle 3, and 3.4% of females during Cycle 4. Because females using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets will likely have scheduled bleeding only 4 times per year, rule out pregnancy at the time of any missed menstrual period.

After discontinuation of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets amenorrhea or oligomenorrhea may occur, especially if these conditions were pre-existent.

### **5.10 Depression**

Carefully observe females with a history of depression and discontinue levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if depression recurs to a serious degree. Data on the association of COCs with onset of depression or exacerbation of existing depression are limited.

### **5.11 Malignant Neoplasms**

#### *Breast Cancer*

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in females who currently have or have had breast cancer because breast cancer may be hormonally sensitive [*see Contraindications (4)*].

Epidemiology studies have not found a consistent association between use of combined oral contraceptives (COCs) and breast cancer risk. Studies do not show an association between ever (current or past) use of COCs and risk of breast cancer. However, some studies report a small increase in the risk of breast cancer among current or recent users (<6 months since last use) and current users with longer duration of COC use [*see Postmarketing Experience (6.2)*].

#### *Cervical Cancer*

Some studies suggest that COC are associated with an increase in the risk of cervical cancer or intraepithelial neoplasia. However, there is controversy about the extent to which such findings may be due to differences in sexual behavior and other factors.

### **5.12 Effect on Binding Globulins**

The estrogen component of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may raise the serum concentrations of thyroxine-binding globulin, sex hormone-binding globulin and cortisol-binding globulin. The dose of replacement thyroid hormone or cortisol therapy may need to be increased.

### **5.13 Hereditary Angioedema**

In females with hereditary angioedema, exogenous estrogens, including levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, may induce or exacerbate symptoms of hereditary angioedema.

### **5.14 Chloasma**

Chloasma may occur with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets use, especially in females with a history of chloasma gravidarum. Advise females with a history of chloasma to avoid

exposure to the sun or ultraviolet radiation while taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following serious adverse reactions with the use of COCs are discussed elsewhere in the labeling:

- Serious cardiovascular events and stroke [*see Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]
- Vascular events [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]
- Liver disease [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*]

### 6.1 Clinical Trial Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice.

The clinical trial that evaluated the safety and efficacy of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets was a 12-month, randomized, multicenter, open-label study, which enrolled women aged 18 to 40, of whom 456 took at least one dose of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets (345.14 woman-years of exposure) [*see Clinical Studies (14)*].

**Adverse Reactions Leading to Study Discontinuation:** 14.9% of the women discontinued from the clinical trial due to an adverse reaction; the most common adverse reactions ( $\geq 1\%$  of women) leading to discontinuation in the levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets group were menorrhagia (5.7%), mood swings (1.9%), weight/appetite increase (1.5%), and acne (1.3%).

**Common Adverse Reactions ( $\geq 2\%$  of women):** headache (20.6%), menorrhagia (11.6%), nausea (7.5%), dysmenorrhea (5.7%), acne (4.6%), migraine (4.4%), breast tenderness (3.5%), weight increased (3.1%), and depression (2.1%).

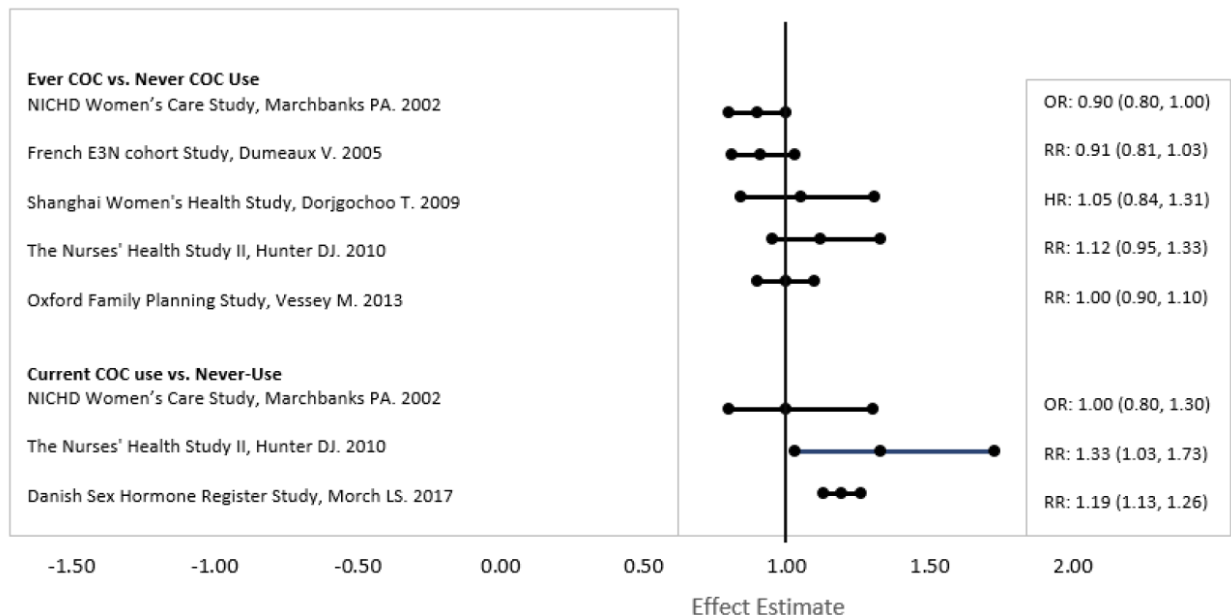
**Serious Adverse Reactions:** pulmonary embolus, cholecystitis.

### 6.2 Postmarketing Experience

Five studies that compared breast cancer risk between ever-users (current or past use) of COCs and never-users of COCs reported no association between ever use of COCs and breast cancer risk, with effect estimates ranging from 0.90 - 1.12 (Figure 2).

Three studies compared breast cancer risk between current or recent COC users ( $<6$  months since last use) and never users of COCs (Figure 2). One of these studies reported no association between breast cancer risk and COC use. The other two studies found an increased relative risk of 1.19 - 1.33 with current or recent use. Both of these studies found an increased risk of breast cancer with current use of longer duration, with relative risks ranging from 1.03 with less than one year of COC use to approximately 1.4 with more than 8-10 years of COC use.

**Figure 2: Relevant Studies of Risk of Breast Cancer with Combined Oral Contraceptives**



RR = relative risk; OR = odds ratio; HR = hazard ratio. “ever COC” are females with current or past COC use; “never COC use” are females that never used COCs.

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

*Gastrointestinal disorders: abdominal distension, vomiting*

*General disorders and administration site conditions: chest pain, fatigue, malaise, edema peripheral, pain*

*Immune system disorder: hypersensitivity reactions, including itching, rash, and angioedema*

*Investigations: blood pressure increased*

*Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders: muscle spasms, pain in extremity*

*Nervous system disorders: dizziness, loss of consciousness*

*Psychiatric disorders: insomnia*

*Reproductive and breast disorders: dysmenorrhea*

*Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: alopecia*

*Vascular disorders: thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, pulmonary thrombosis*

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

The sections below provide information on substances for which data on drug interactions with COCs are available. There is little information available about the clinical effect of most drug interactions that may affect COCs. However, based on the known pharmacokinetic effects of these drugs, clinical strategies to minimize any potential adverse effect on contraceptive effectiveness or safety are suggested.

Consult the approved product labeling of all concurrently used drugs to obtain further information about interactions with COCs or the potential for metabolic enzyme or transporter system alterations.

No drug-drug interaction studies were conducted with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

### 7.1 Effects of Other Drugs on Combined Oral Contraceptives

Substances decreasing the plasma concentrations of COCs and potentially diminishing the efficacy of COCs:

Table 5 includes substances that demonstrated an important drug interaction with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

**Table 5: Significant Drug Interactions Involving Substances That Affect COCs**

Metabolic Enzyme Inducers	
Clinical effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concomitant use of COCs with metabolic enzyme inducers may decrease the plasma concentrations of the estrogen and/or progestin component of COCs.</li> <li>Decreased exposure of the estrogen and/or progestin component of COCs may potentially diminish the effectiveness of COCs and may lead to contraceptive failure or an increase in breakthrough bleeding.</li> </ul>
Prevention or management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counsel females to use an alternative method of contraception or a backup method when enzyme inducers are used with COCs.</li> <li>Continue backup contraception for 28 days after discontinuing the enzyme inducer to maintain contraceptive reliability.</li> </ul>
Examples	Aprepitant, barbiturates, bosentan, carbamazepine, efavirenz, felbamate, griseofulvin, oxcarbazepine, phenytoin, rifampin, rifabutin, rufinamide, topiramate, products containing St. John's wort, and certain protease inhibitors (see separate section on protease inhibitors below).
Colesevelam	
Clinical effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concomitant use of COCs with colesevelam significantly decreases systemic exposure of ethinyl estradiol [see <i>Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)</i>].</li> <li>Decreased exposure of the estrogen component of COCs may potentially reduce contraceptive efficacy or result in an increase in breakthrough bleeding, depending on the strength of ethinyl estradiol in the COC.</li> </ul>
Prevention or management	Administer 4 or more hours apart to attenuate this drug interaction.

<sup>a</sup> Induction potency of St. John's wort may vary widely based on preparation.

### Substances increasing the systemic exposure of COCs:

Co-administration of atorvastatin or rosuvastatin and certain COCs containing ethinyl estradiol (EE) increase AUC values for EE by approximately 20 to 25%. Ascorbic acid and acetaminophen may increase systemic exposure of EE possibly by inhibition of conjugation. CYP3A4 inhibitors such as itraconazole, voriconazole, fluconazole, grapefruit juice, or ketoconazole may increase systemic exposure of estrogen and/or progestin component of COCs.

### Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/ Hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitors and non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors:

Significant decreases in systemic exposure of the estrogen and/or progestin have been noted when COCs are co-administered with some HIV protease inhibitors (e.g., nelfinavir, ritonavir, darunavir/ritonavir, (fos)amprenavir/ritonavir, lopinavir/ritonavir, and tipranavir/ritonavir] or some HCV protease inhibitors (e.g. boceprevir and telaprevir) and some non-nucleosidase reverse transcriptase inhibitors (e.g. nevirapine).

In contrast, significant increases in systemic exposure of the estrogen and/or progestin have been noted when COCs are co-administered with certain other HIV protease inhibitors (e.g., indinavir and atazanavir/ritonavir) and with other non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (e.g., etravirine).

## **7.2 Effects of Combined Oral Contraceptives on Other Drugs**

Table 6 provides significant drug interaction information for drugs co-administered with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

**Table 6: Significant Drug Interaction Information for Drugs Co-Administered With COCs**

<b>Lamotrigine</b>	
Clinical effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concomitant use of COCs with lamotrigine may significantly decrease systemic exposure of lamotrigine due to induction of lamotrigine glucuronidation [See <i>Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)</i>].</li><li>• Decreased systemic exposure of lamotrigine may reduce seizure control.</li></ul>
Prevention or management	Dose adjustment may be necessary. Consult the approved product labeling for lamotrigine.
<b>Thyroid Hormone Replacement Therapy or Corticosteroid Replacement Therapy</b>	
Clinical effect	Concomitant use of COCs with thyroid hormone replacement therapy or corticosteroid replacement therapy may increase systemic exposure of thyroid-binding and cortisol-binding globulin [see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.12)</i> ].
Prevention or management	The dose of replacement thyroid hormone or cortisol therapy may need to be increased. Consult the approved product labeling for the therapy in use [see <i>Warnings and Precautions (5.12)</i> ].
<b>Other Drugs</b>	
Clinical effect	Concomitant use of COCs may decrease systemic exposure of acetaminophen, morphine, salicylic acid, and temazepam. Concomitant use with ethinyl estradiol-containing COCs may increase systemic exposure of other drugs (e.g., cyclosporine, prednisolone, theophylline, tizanidine, and voriconazole).



Prevention or management	The dosage of drugs that can be affected by this interaction may need to be increased. Consult the approved product labeling for the concomitantly used drug.
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### **7.3 Concomitant Use with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Combination Therapy – Liver Enzyme Elevation**

Co-administration of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets with HCV drug combinations containing ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, with or without dasabuvir is contraindicated due to potential for ALT elevations [see *Warning and Precautions (5.3)*]. Co-administration of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and glecaprevir/pibrentasvir is not recommended due to potential for ALT elevations.

### **7.4 Effect on Laboratory Tests**

The use of COCs may influence the results of certain laboratory tests, such as coagulation factors, lipids, glucose tolerance, and binding proteins.

## **8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

### **8.1 Pregnancy**

#### Risk Summary

There is no use for contraception in pregnancy; therefore, levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets should be discontinued during pregnancy. Epidemiologic studies and meta-analyses have not found an increased risk of genital or non-genital birth defects (including cardiac anomalies and limb-reduction defects) following exposure to COCs before conception or during early pregnancy.

In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4 percent and 15 to 20 percent, respectively.

### **8.2 Lactation**

#### Risk Summary

Contraceptive hormones and/or metabolites are present in human milk. COCs can reduce milk production in breastfeeding females. This reduction can occur at any time but is less likely to occur once breastfeeding is well-established. When possible, advise the nursing female to use other methods of contraception until she discontinues breastfeeding [see *Dosage and Administration (2.1)*]. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother’s clinical need for levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets or the underlying maternal condition.

### **8.4 Pediatric Use**

Safety and efficacy of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets have been established in women of reproductive age. Efficacy is expected to be the same for postpubertal adolescents under the age of 18 as for users 18 years and older. Use of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets before menarche is not indicated.

### 8.5 Geriatric Use

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablet has not been studied in postmenopausal women and is not indicated in this population.

### 8.6 Hepatic Impairment

The pharmacokinetics of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets have not been studied in subjects with hepatic impairment. However, COCs may be poorly metabolized in patients with hepatic impairment. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets is contraindicated in females with acute hepatitis or severe decompensated cirrhosis [see *Contraindications (4) and Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*].

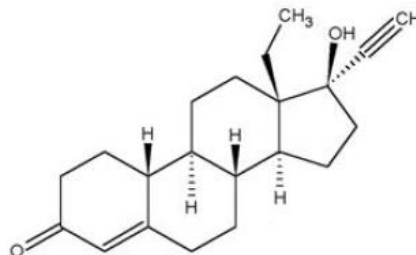
## 10 OVERDOSAGE

There have been no reports of serious ill effects from overdose of oral contraceptives, including ingestion by children. Overdosage may cause withdrawal bleeding in females and nausea.

## 11 DESCRIPTION

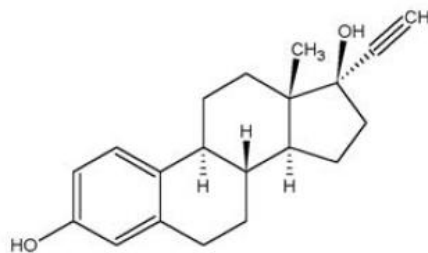
Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets USP are an extended-cycle combination oral contraceptive consisting of 84 pink, round, biconvex, film-coated, active tablets, each containing 0.15 mg of levonorgestrel USP, a synthetic progestin and 0.03 mg of ethinyl estradiol USP, an estrogen, and 7 white to off white, round, biconvex, inert tablets (without hormones).

The structural formulas for the active components are:



**Levonorgestrel**  
 $C_{21}H_{28}O_2$       MW: 312.4

Levonorgestrel USP is chemically 18,19-Dinorpregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one, 13-ethyl-17-hydroxy-, (17 $\alpha$ )-, (-)-.



**Ethinyl Estradiol**  
 $C_{20}H_{24}O_2$       MW: 296.4

Ethinyl Estradiol USP is 19-Norpregna-1,3,5(10)-trien-20-yne-3,17-diol, (17 $\alpha$ )-.

- Each pink active tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, FD & C Blue # 1, FD & C Red # 40, hypromellose, lactose anhydrous, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, povidone and titanium dioxide.
- Each white to off white inert tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate and microcrystalline cellulose.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

COCs prevent pregnancy primarily by suppressing ovulation.

### 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

No specific pharmacodynamic studies were conducted with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

#### Absorption

No specific investigation of the absolute bioavailability of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets in humans has been conducted. However, literature indicates that levonorgestrel is rapidly and completely absorbed after oral administration (bioavailability nearly 100%) and is not subject to first-pass metabolism. EE is rapidly and almost completely absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract but, due to first-pass metabolism in gut mucosa and liver, the bioavailability of EE is approximately 43%.

Following continuous dosing with once-daily administration of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, plasma concentrations of levonorgestrel and EE reached steady-state within 7 days. The mean plasma pharmacokinetic parameters for levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets under fasting conditions in normal healthy women following once-daily administration of one levonorgestrel/EE combination tablet for 10 days are summarized in Table 7.

**Table 7: Mean  $\pm$ SD Pharmacokinetic Parameters Under Fasting Conditions in Healthy Women Following 10 Days Administration of One Tablet of Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol (n=44)**

Analyte	AUC <sub>0 to 24</sub>	C <sub>max</sub>	C <sub>min</sub>	C <sub>avg</sub> <sup>a</sup>	T <sub>max</sub>
Levonorgestrel	54.6 $\pm$ 16.5 ng*hr/mL	5.0 $\pm$ 1.5 ng/mL	1.6 $\pm$ 0.5 ng/mL	2.3 $\pm$ 0.7 ng/mL	1.4 $\pm$ 0.7 hours
Ethinyl estradiol	935.5 $\pm$ 346.9 pg*hr/mL	106.1 $\pm$ 41.2 pg/mL	18.5 $\pm$ 9.4 pg/mL	38.9 $\pm$ 14.4 pg/mL	1.6 $\pm$ 0.6 hours

<sup>a</sup> C<sub>avg</sub> = AUC<sub>0 to 24/24</sub>

#### *Food Effect*

The effect of food on the rate and the extent of levonorgestrel and EE absorption following oral administration of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets has not been evaluated.

### Distribution

The apparent volume of distribution of levonorgestrel and EE are reported to be approximately 1.8 L/kg and 4.3 L/kg, respectively. Levonorgestrel is about 97.5 to 99% protein-bound, principally to sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG) and, to a lesser extent, serum albumin. EE is about 95 to 97% bound to serum albumin. EE does not bind to SHBG, but induces SHBG synthesis, which leads to decreased levonorgestrel clearance. Following repeated daily dosing of levonorgestrel/EE oral contraceptives, levonorgestrel plasma concentrations accumulate more than predicted based on single-dose pharmacokinetics, due in part, to increased SHBG levels that are induced by EE, and a possible reduction in hepatic metabolic capacity.

### Metabolism

Following absorption, levonorgestrel is conjugated at the 17 $\beta$ -OH position to form sulfate and to a lesser extent, glucuronide conjugates in plasma. Significant amounts of conjugated and unconjugated 3 $\alpha$ ,5 $\beta$ -tetrahydrolevonorgestrel are also present in plasma, along with much smaller amounts of 3 $\alpha$ ,5 $\alpha$ -tetrahydrolevonorgestrel and 16 $\beta$ -hydroxylevonorgestrel. Levonorgestrel and its phase I metabolites are excreted primarily as glucuronide conjugates. Metabolic clearance rates may differ among individuals by several-fold, and this may account in part for the wide variation observed in levonorgestrel concentrations among users.

First-pass metabolism of EE involves formation of EE-3-sulfate in the gut wall, followed by 2-hydroxylation of a portion of the remaining untransformed EE by hepatic cytochrome P-450 3A4 (CYP3A4). Levels of CYP3A4 vary widely among individuals and can explain the variation in rates of EE hydroxylation. Hydroxylation at the 4-, 6-, and 16- positions may also occur, although to a much lesser extent than 2-hydroxylation. The various hydroxylated metabolites are subject to further methylation and/or conjugation.

### Excretion

About 45% of levonorgestrel and its metabolites are excreted in the urine and about 32% are excreted in feces, mostly as glucuronide conjugates. The terminal elimination half-life for levonorgestrel after a single dose of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets was about 30 hours.

EE is excreted in the urine and feces as glucuronide and sulfate conjugates, and it undergoes enterohepatic recirculation. The terminal elimination half-life of EE after a single dose of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets was found to be about 15 hours.

## **13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**

### **13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility**

*[See Warnings and Precautions (5.2, 5.11)].*

## **14 CLINICAL STUDIES**

In a 12-month, multicenter, randomized, open-label clinical trial, 456 women aged 18 to 40 were studied to assess the safety and efficacy of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, completing 809 91-day cycles of exposure. The racial demographic of those enrolled was: Caucasian (77%), African-American (11%), Hispanic (7%), Asian (2%), and Other (3%).

There were no exclusions for body mass index (BMI) or weight. The weight range of those women treated was 84 to 304 pounds, with a mean weight of 157 pounds and a median weight of 147 pounds. Among the women in the trial, 63% were current or recent hormonal contraceptive users, 29% were prior users (who had used hormonal contraceptives in the past but not in the 6 months prior to enrollment), and 8% were new starts.

The pregnancy rate (Pearl Index [PI]) in the 397 women aged 18 to 35 years was 1.98 pregnancies per 100 women-years of use (95% CI: 0.54 to 5.03), based on 4 pregnancies that occurred after the onset of treatment and within 14 days after the last combination pill. Cycles in which conception did not occur, but which included the use of back-up contraception, were not included in the calculation of the PI.

## **16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING**

### **How Supplied**

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets USP, 0.15 mg/0.03 mg are available in Extended-Cycle Wallet of 91 tablets each containing a 13-week supply of tablets which is packed in a pouch (NDC 68180-843-11). Such three pouches are packed in a carton (NDC 68180-843-13).

Each wallet (91 tablets) contains in the following order:

- 84 pink, round, biconvex, film-coated tablets, each containing 0.15 mg of levonorgestrel and 0.03 mg ethinyl estradiol; debossed with LU on one side and U21 on the other side
- 7 white to off white, round, biconvex, inert tablets debossed with LU on one side and U22 on the other side.

### **Storage and Handling**

- Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted to 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].
- Protect from light.

## **17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION**

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information and Instructions for Use).

### Cigarette Smoking

Cigarette smoking increases the risk of serious cardiovascular events from COC use women who are over 35 years old and smoke should not use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets [see *Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

### Venous Thromboembolism

The increased risk of VTE compared to non-users of COCs is greatest after initially starting a COC or restarting (following a 4-week or greater pill-free interval) the same or a different COC [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

### Use During Pregnancy

Instruct females to stop further intake of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if pregnancy is confirmed during treatment.

### Sexually Transmitted Infections

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets does not protect against HIV-infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted infections.

### Dosing and Missed Pill Instructions

- Patients should take one tablet daily by mouth at the same time every day. [*see Dosage and Administration (2.1)*].
- Instruct patients what to do in the event tablets are missed. See “**What should I do if I miss any SEASONALE pills**” section in FDA-approved Instructions for Use [*see Dosage and Administration (2.3)*].

### Need for Additional Contraception

- Postpartum females who start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets who have not yet had a period when they start levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets need to use an additional method of contraception until they have taken a pink tablet for 7 consecutive days [*see Dosage and Administration (2.1)*].
- There is a need for a back-up or alternative method of contraception when enzyme inducers are used with levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets [*see Drug Interactions (7.1)*].

### Lactation


- Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may reduce breast milk production. This is less likely to occur if breastfeeding is well established. When possible, nursing women should use other methods of contraception until they have discontinued breastfeeding [*see Use in Specific Populations (8.2)*]

### Amenorrhea and Possible Symptoms of Pregnancy

Amenorrhea may occur. Because women using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets will likely have scheduled bleeding only 4 times per year, advise women to contact their health care provider in the event of amenorrhea with symptoms of pregnancy such as morning sickness or unusual breast tenderness [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.9)*].

### Depression

Depressed mood and depression may occur. Women should contact their healthcare provider if mood changes and depressive symptoms occur, including shortly after initiating the treatment [*see Warnings and Precautions (5.10)*].

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INDIA  
Revised: March 2025

## Patient Information

**Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol [LEE-voe-nor-JES-trel and EH-thih-nill-ess-tra-DYE-ole] Tablets, 0.15 mg/0.03 mg**

### **WARNING TO WOMEN WHO SMOKE**

**Do not use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if you smoke cigarettes and are over 35 years old. Smoking increases your risk of serious cardiovascular side effects from birth control pills, including death from heart attack, blood clots or stroke. This risk increases with age and the number of cigarettes you smoke.**

**What is the most important information I should know about levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

**Do not use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if you smoke cigarettes and are over 35 years old.** Smoking increases your risk of serious cardiovascular side effects from hormonal birth control pills, including death from heart attack, blood clots or stroke. This risk increases with age and the number of cigarettes you smoke.

**What are levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablet is a birth control pill (oral contraceptive) used by women to prevent pregnancy. It contains two female hormones, an estrogen called ethinyl estradiol, and a progestin called levonorgestrel. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablet does not protect against HIV infections (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted infections.

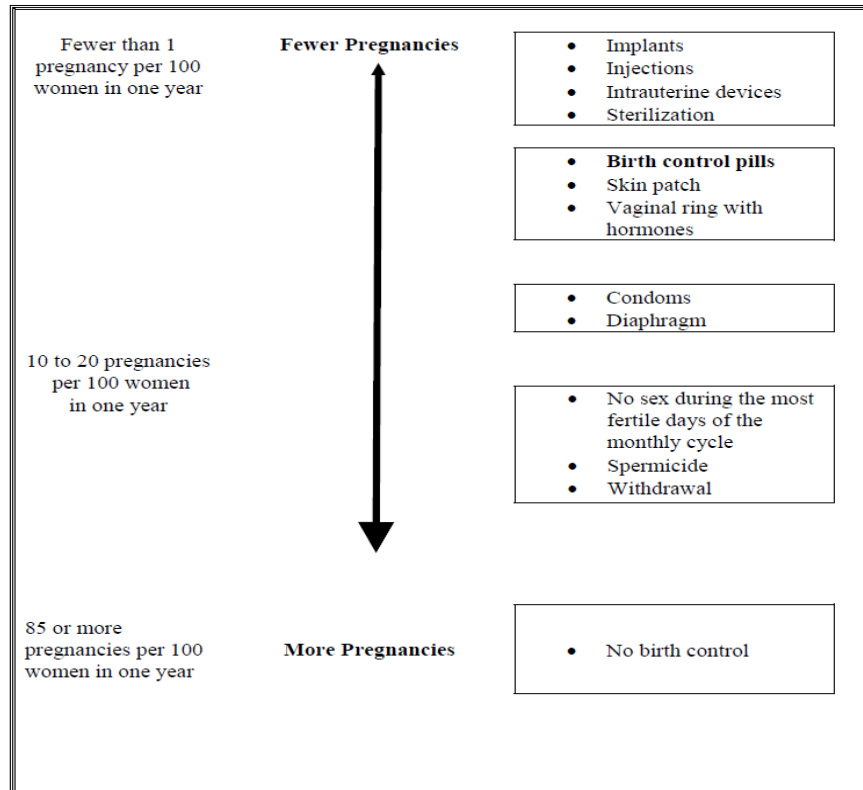
**How does levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablet work for contraception?**

Your chance of getting pregnant depends on how well you follow the directions for taking your birth control pills. The better you follow the directions, the less chance you have of getting pregnant.

Based on the results of clinical studies, about 1 to 5 out of 100 women may get pregnant during the first year they use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

The following chart shows the chance of getting pregnant for women who use different methods of birth control. Each box on the chart contains a list of birth control methods that are similar in effectiveness. The most effective methods are at the top of the chart. The box on the bottom of the chart shows the chance of getting pregnant for women who do not use birth control and are trying to get pregnant.





**Who should not take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

**Do not take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if you:**

- smoke and are over 35 years of age
- have or had blood clots in your arms, legs, lungs, or eyes
- had a stroke
- had a heart attack
- have certain heart valve problems or heart rhythm abnormalities that can cause blood clots to form in the heart
- have or had a problem with your blood that makes it clot more than normal
- have high blood pressure that cannot be controlled by medicine or have high blood pressure with blood vessels problems
- have diabetes
  - and are over the age of 35
  - with high blood pressure
  - with kidney, eye, nerve, or blood vessel damage
  - for more than 20 years
- have certain kinds of severe migraine headaches with aura, numbness, weakness or changes in vision, or any migraine headaches if you are over 35 years of age
- have or had breast cancer
- have liver problems, including liver tumors
- have any unexplained vaginal bleeding

- take any Hepatitis C drug combination containing ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, with or without dasabuvir. This may increase levels of the liver enzyme “alanine aminotransferase” (ALT) in the blood.

**If any of these conditions happen to you while you are taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets right away and talk to your healthcare provider. Use non-hormonal contraception when you stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.**

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- are pregnant or think you may be pregnant
- are scheduled for surgery. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may increase your risk of blood clots after surgery. You should stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets at least 4 weeks before you have surgery and not restart levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets until at least 2 weeks after your surgery.
- are depressed now or have been depressed in the past
- had yellowing of your skin or eyes (jaundice) caused by pregnancy (cholestasis of pregnancy)
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may decrease the amount of breast milk you make. A small amount of the hormones in levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may pass into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best birth control method for you while breastfeeding.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have ever had any of the conditions listed in, “**Who should not take Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets**” above. Your healthcare provider may recommend another method of birth control.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

Levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how well levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets works.

Some medicines and herbal products may make birth control pills less effective, including:

- barbiturates
- bosentan
- carbamazepine
- felbamate
- griseofulvin
- oxcarbazepine
- phenytoin
- rifampin
- St. John’s wort

- topiramate

Use a back-up or alternative birth control method when you take medicines that may make birth control pills less effective.

Birth control pills may interact with lamotrigine, an anticonvulsant used for epilepsy. This may increase the risk of seizures, so your physician may need to adjust the dose of lamotrigine.

Women on thyroid hormone replacement therapy may need increased doses of thyroid hormone.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

### **How should I take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

**Read the Instructions for Use at the end of this Patient Information.**

### **What are the most serious risks of taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

- **Like pregnancy, levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets may cause serious side effects, including blood clots in your lungs, heart attack, or a stroke that may lead to death. Some other examples of serious blood clots include blood clots in the legs or eyes.** Serious blood clots can happen especially if you smoke, are obese, or are older than 35 years of age. Serious blood clots are more likely to happen when you:
  - first start taking birth control pills
  - restart the same or different birth control pills after not using them for a month or more

### **Call your healthcare provider or go to a hospital emergency room right away if you have:**

- leg pain that will not go away
- sudden severe shortness of breath
- sudden change in vision or blindness
- chest pain
- a sudden, severe headache unlike your usual headaches
- weakness or numbness in your arm or leg
- trouble speaking
- yellowing of your skin or eyes

### **Other serious side effects include:**

- **liver problems, including:**
  - rare liver tumors
  - jaundice (cholestasis), especially if you previously had cholestasis of pregnancy.
- **high blood pressure.** You should see your healthcare provider to check of your blood pressure regularly.
- **gallbladder problems**
- **changes in the sugar and fat (cholesterol and triglycerides) levels in your blood**
- **new or worsening headaches including migraine headaches**
- **irregular or unusual vaginal bleeding and spotting between your menstrual periods, especially during the first 3 months of taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.**

- **depression, especially if you have had depression in the past. Call your healthcare provider immediately if you have any thoughts of harming yourself.**
- **possible cancer in your breast and cervix**
- **swelling of your skin especially around your mouth, eyes, and in your throat (angioedema).** Call your healthcare provider if you have a swollen face, lips, mouth tongue or throat, which may lead to difficulty swallowing or breathing. Your chance of having angioedema is higher if you have a history of angioedema.
- **dark patches of skin around your forehead, nose, cheeks and around your mouth, especially during pregnancy (chloasma).** Women who tend to get chloasma should avoid spending a long time in sunlight, tanning booths, and under sun lamps while taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. Use sunscreen if you have to be in the sunlight.

**What are the most common side effects of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

- headache (migraine)
- heavier or longer periods, pain with periods
- nausea
- acne
- breast tenderness
- increase in weight

These are not all the possible side effects of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**What else should I know about taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

- If you are scheduled for any lab tests, tell your healthcare provider you are taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. Certain blood tests may be affected by levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.
- Do not skip any pills, even if you do not have sex often.
- Birth control pills should not be taken during pregnancy. However, birth control pills taken by accident during pregnancy are not known to cause birth defects.
- You should stop levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets at least four weeks before you have major surgery and not restart it for at least two weeks after the surgery, due to an increased risk of blood clots.
- If you are breastfeeding, consider another birth control method until you are ready to stop breastfeeding. Birth control pills that contain estrogen, like levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, may decrease the amount of milk you make. A small amount of the pill's hormones pass into breast milk, but this has not caused harmful effects in breastfeeding infants.
- If you have vomiting or diarrhea, your birth control pills may not work as well. Use another birth control method, like condoms or a spermicide, until you check with your healthcare provider.

### **How should I store levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

- Store levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).
- Protect from light.
- Keep levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and all medicines out of the reach of children.

### **General information about the safe and effective use of levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have.

This Patient Information summarizes the most important information about levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call Lupin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. at 1-800-399-2561 or visit our website at [www.lupinpharmaceuticals.com](http://www.lupinpharmaceuticals.com).

### **Do birth control pills cause cancer?**

It is not known if hormonal birth control pills cause breast cancer. Some studies, but not all, suggest that there could be a slight increase in the risk of breast cancer among current users with longer duration of use.

If you have breast cancer now, or have had it in the past, do not use hormonal birth control because some breast cancers are sensitive to hormones. Women who use birth control pills may have a slightly higher chance of getting cervical cancer. However, this may be due to other reasons such as having more sexual partners.

### **What if I want to become pregnant?**

You may stop taking the pill whenever you wish. Consider a visit with your healthcare provider for a pre-pregnancy checkup before you stop taking the pill.

### **What should I know about my period when taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

When you take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, which have a 91-day extended dosing cycle, you should have **4** scheduled periods a year (bleeding when you are taking the **7** white pills). However, you will probably have more bleeding or spotting between your scheduled periods than if you were using a birth control pill with a 28-day dosing cycle. During the first levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets 91-day treatment cycle, about **1** in **3** women may have **20** or more days of unplanned bleeding or spotting. This bleeding or spotting tends to decrease with time. **Do not** stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets because of this bleeding or spotting. If the spotting continues for more than **7** days in a row or if the bleeding is heavy, call your healthcare provider.

**What if I miss my scheduled period when taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

You should consider the possibility that you are pregnant if you miss your scheduled period (no bleeding on the days that you are taking white pills). Since scheduled periods are less frequent when you are taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, notify your healthcare provider that you have missed your period and that you are taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. Also notify your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of pregnancy such as morning sickness or unusual breast tenderness. It is important that your healthcare provider evaluates you to determine if you are pregnant. Stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets if it is determined that you are pregnant.

**What are the ingredients in levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

**Active ingredients:** Each pink pill contains levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol.

**Inactive ingredients:**

Pink pills: croscarmellose sodium, FD & C Blue # 1, FD & C Red # 40, hypromellose, lactose anhydrous, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, povidone and titanium dioxide.

White pills: croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate and microcrystalline cellulose.

**Instructions For Use**  
**Levonorgestrel and Ethinyl Estradiol [LEE-voe-nor-JES-trel and EH-thih-nill-ess-tra-DYE-ole] Tablets**

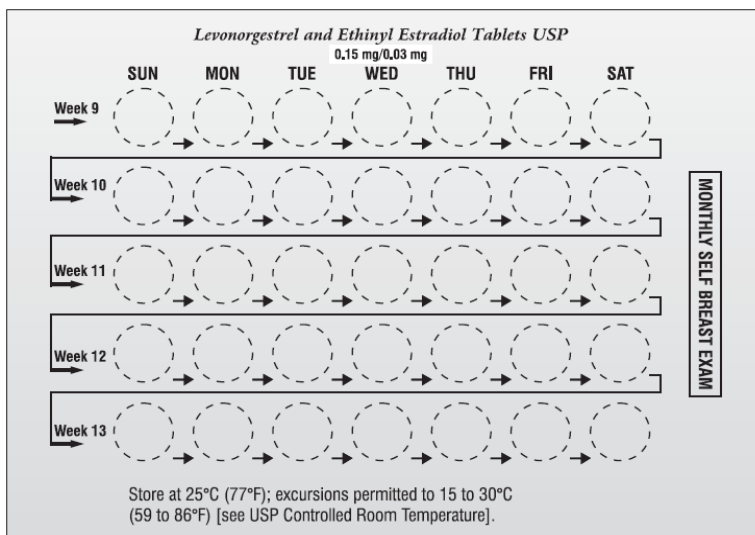
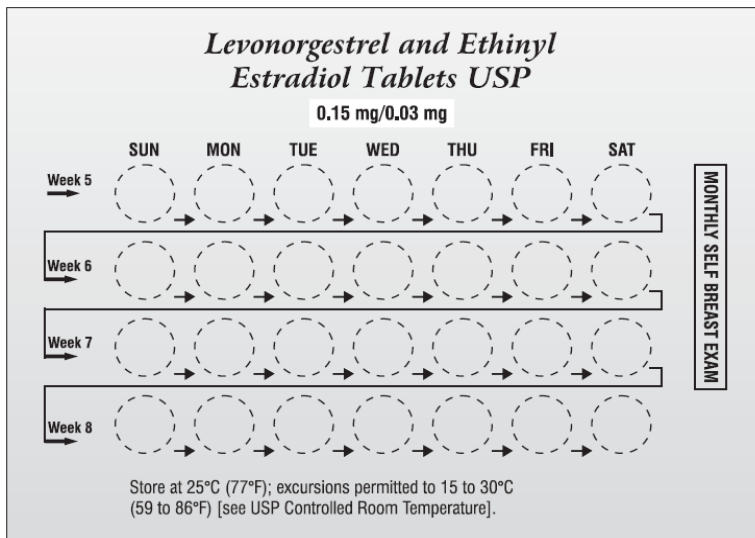
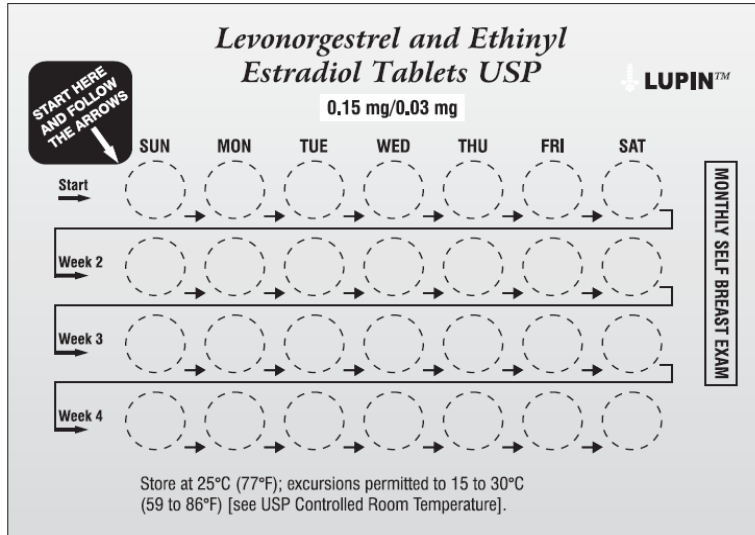
**Important information about taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets**

- Take **1** pill every day at the same time. Take the pills in the order directed on your wallet.
- Do not skip your pills, even if you do not have sex often. If you miss pills (including starting the pack late) **you could get pregnant**. The more pills you miss, the more likely you are to get pregnant.
- If you have trouble remembering to take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, talk to your healthcare provider.
- When you first start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets, spotting or light bleeding in between your periods may occur. Contact your healthcare provider if this does not go away after a few months.
- You may feel sick to your stomach (nauseous), especially during the first few months of taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets. If you feel sick to your stomach, do not stop taking the pill. The problem will usually go away. If your nausea does not go away, call your healthcare provider.
- Missing pills can also cause spotting or light bleeding, even when you take the missed pills later. On the days you take 2 pills to make up for missed pills (see, “**What should I do if I miss any levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol pills?**” below), you could also feel a little sick to your stomach.
- It is not uncommon to miss a period. However, if you miss a period and have not taken levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets according to directions, or feel like you may be pregnant, call your healthcare provider. If you have a positive pregnancy test, you should stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.
- If you have vomiting or diarrhea within **3 to 4** hours of taking a pink pill, take another pink pill as soon as possible. Continue taking one pill a day until the 91-day course is finished.
- If you have vomiting or diarrhea for more than 1 day, your birth control pills may not work as well. Use an additional birth control method, like condoms or spermicide, until you check with your healthcare provider.
- Stop taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets at least **4** weeks before you have major surgery and do not restart after the surgery without asking your healthcare provider. Be sure to use other forms of contraception (like condoms or spermicide) during this time period.

**Before you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets:**

- Decide what time of day you want to take your pill. It is important to take it at about the same time every day.
- Look at your Extended-Cycle Wallet. Your Wallet consist of blister strips that hold 91 individually sealed pills (a 13-week, or 91-day, cycle). The 91 pills consist of 84 pink pills (active pills with hormones) and 7 white pills (inactive pills without hormone).
- Blister strip 1 and 2 each contain 28 pink pills (4 rows of 7 pills). **See Figure A.**
- Blister strip 3 contains 35 pills consisting of 28 pink pills (4 rows of 7 pills) and 7 white pills (1 row of 7 pills). **See Figure A.**

Figure A





- Also find:
  - Where on the first blister strip in the pack to start taking pills (upper left corner at the start arrow) and
  - In what order to take the pills (follow the weeks and arrow)
- Be sure you have ready at all times another kind of birth control (such as condoms or spermicide), to use as a back-up in case you miss pills.

**When should I start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**

**If you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and you have not used a hormonal birth control method before:**

- Take the first pink pill on the Sunday after your period starts, even if you are still bleeding. If your period begins on Sunday, start the first pink pill that same day.
- Use another method of birth control (such as condoms or spermicides) as a back-up method if you have sex anytime from the Sunday you start your first pink pill until the next Sunday (first 7 days).

**If you have recently given birth and have not yet had a period,** use another method of birth control if you have sex (such as condoms and spermicides) as a back-up method until you have taken levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets for 7 days.

**If you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and you are switching from another birth control pill:**

- Start your new levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets pack on the same day that you would start the next pack of your previous birth control method.
- Do not continue taking the pills from your previous birth control pack.

**If you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and previously used a vaginal ring:**

- Start using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets on the day you would have reapplied the next ring.

**If you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and previously used a transdermal patch:**

- Start using levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets on the day you would have started a new cycle (first patch application).

**If you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and you are switching from a progestin-only method such as an implant or injection:**

- Start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets on the day of removal of your implant, or on the day when you would have had your next injection.

**If you start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets and you are switching from an intrauterine device or system (IUD or IUS):**

- Start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets on the day of removal of your IUD or IUS.

- You do not need back-up contraception if your IUD or IUS is removed on the first day (Day 1) of your period. If your IUD or IUS is removed on any other day, use non-hormonal back-up contraception such as condoms or spermicide for the first 7 days that you take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

**Keep a calendar to track your period: If this is the first time** you are taking birth control pills, read, “**When should I start taking levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets?**” above. Follow these instructions for a **Sunday Start**.

**Instructions for using your levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets Extended-Cycle Wallet:**

**Sunday Start:**

- Take pill **1** on the Sunday **after your period starts**. To remove your pill from the wallet, press the pill through the hole in the bottom of the wallet.
- If your period starts on a Sunday, take pill “**1**” that same day.
- Take **1** pill at about the same time every day until you have taken the last pill in the wallet.
- After taking the last white pill on Day 91 from the wallet, start taking the first pink pill from a new Extended-Cycle Wallet on the very next day (this should be a Sunday). Take the first pill in the new pack whether or not you are having your period.
- Use non-hormonal back-up contraception such as condoms or spermicide for the first 7 days of the first cycle that you take levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol tablets.

**What should I do if I miss any levonorgestrel and ethinyl estradiol pills?**

**If you miss 1 pink pill, follow these steps:**

- Take it as soon as you remember. Take the next pill at your regular time. This means you may take **2** pills in **1** day.
- Then continue taking **1** pill every day until you finish the pack.
- You do not need to use a back-up birth control method if you have sex.

**If you miss 2 pink pills in a row, follow these steps:**

- Take **2** pills on the day you remember and **2** pills the next day.
- Then continue to take **1** pill every day until you finish the pack.
- You could become pregnant if you have sex in the **7** days after you miss two pills. You **must** use a non-hormonal birth control method (such as a condom or spermicide) as a back-up if you have sex during the first **7 days** after you restart your pills.

**If you miss 3 or more pink pills in a row, follow these steps:**

- **Do not** take the missed pills. Keep taking **1** pill every day until you have completed all of the remaining pills in the pack. For example, if you start taking the pill on Thursday, take the pill under “Thursday” and do not take the missed pills. You may have bleeding during the week following the missed pills.
- You could become pregnant if you have sex during the days of missed pills or during the first 7 days after restarting your pills. You **must** use a non-hormonal birth control method (such as a condom or spermicide) as a back-up when you miss pills and for the first **7 days** after you

restart your pills. If you do not have your period when you are taking the white pills, call your healthcare provider because you may be pregnant.

**If you miss any of the 7 white pills:**

- Throw away the missed pills.
- Keep taking the scheduled pills until the pack is finished.
- You do not need a back-up method of birth control.

**Finally, if you are still not sure what to do about the pills you have missed**

- Use a back-up method anytime you have sex.
- Keep taking one pill each day until you contact your healthcare provider.

**If you have any questions or are unsure about the information in this leaflet, call your healthcare provider.**

This Patient Information and Instructions for Use have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



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