Last updated: September 25, 2023

Etonogestrel Implant: Breast disease/cancer, use in women with

Canadian Product Monograph

Progestin-only contraceptives should not be used in the presence of any of the conditions listed below. Should any of the conditions appear for the first time during the use of NEXPLANON®, the product should be stopped immediately.
NEXPLANON® should not be used in women with:
• Known or suspected breast cancer, personal history of breast cancer, or other progestin sensitive cancer, now or in the past (CONTRAINDICATIONS). [1]

Women who currently have or have had breast cancer should not use hormonal contraception because breast cancer may be hormonally sensitive (see Contraindications). Some studies suggest that the use of combination hormonal contraceptives might increase the incidence of breast cancer; however, other studies have not confirmed such findings. Some studies suggest that the use of combination hormonal contraceptives is associated with an increase in the risk of cervical cancer or intraepithelial neoplasia. However, there is controversy about the extent to which these findings are due to differences in sexual behavior and other factors. Women with a family history of breast cancer or who develop breast nodules should be carefully monitored (WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Carcinoma of the Breast and Reproductive Organs). [1]

Medical Literature

A search of the published medical literature did not identify any references discussing the use of etonogestrel implants in patients with breast cancer.

Guidelines

The U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use by the Centers for Disease Control contains recommendations regarding progestin only contraceptive use for women with breast diseases, including benign breast disease. The summary chart can be found at the following link: Summary Chart of U.S. Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use. (cdc.gov)

Reference List

(1) Nexplanon® Product Monograph.