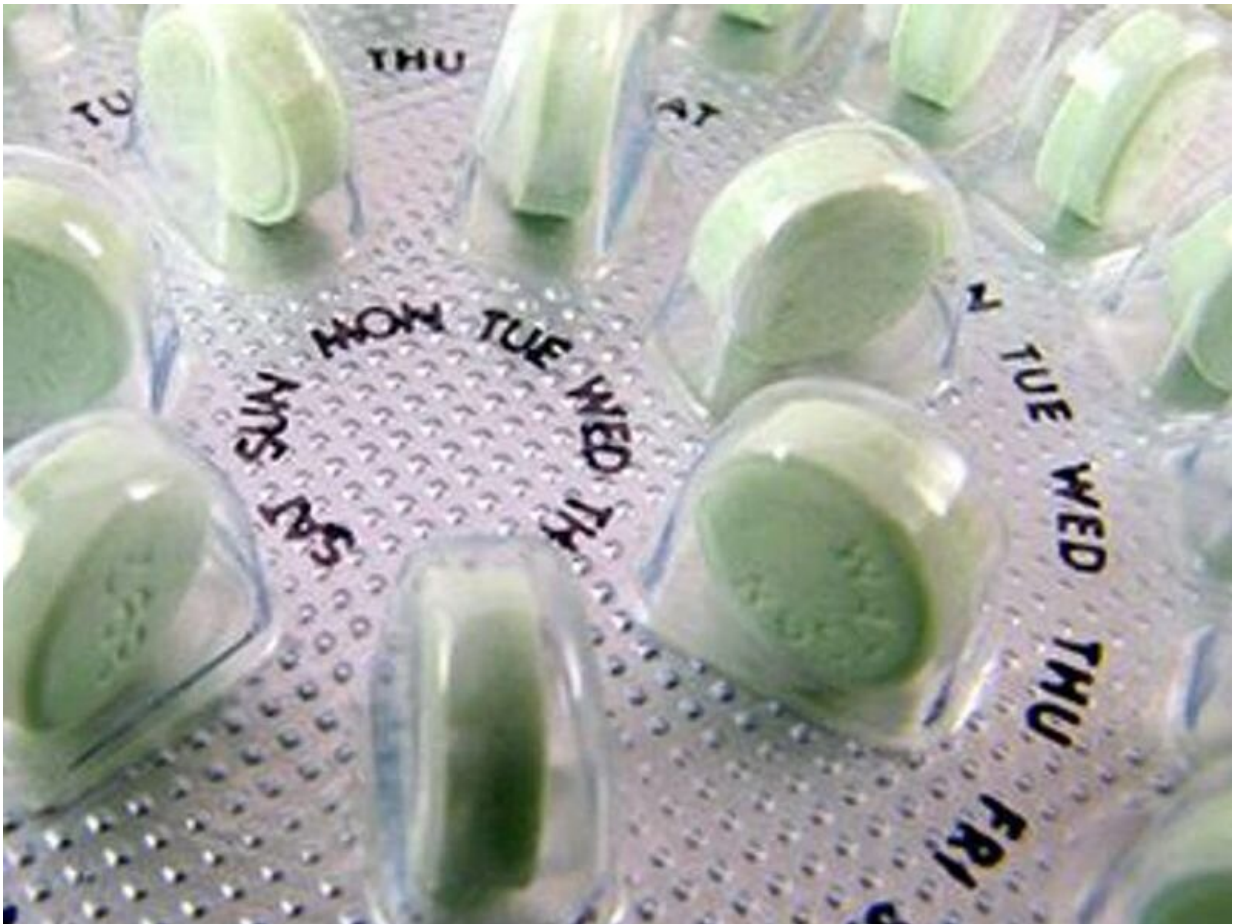


# Oral contraceptives lower ovarian cancer risk in BRCA carriers

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(HealthDay)—Oral contraceptive use is associated with a reduced risk

for ovarian cancer for *BRCA* mutation carriers, according to a study published in the July issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Lieske H. Schrijver, from the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam, and colleagues examined the correlation of various characteristics of oral contraceptive use and the risk for ovarian cancer among 3,989 *BRCA1* and 2,445 *BRCA2* mutation carriers.

The researchers found that mutation carriers who were diagnosed with ovarian cancer had less frequent use of oral contraceptives (ever use: 58.6 percent for *BRCA1* and 53.5 percent for *BRCA2*) compared with unaffected carriers (88.9 and 80.7 percent, respectively). *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* carriers who developed ovarian cancer had a median duration of oral contraceptive use of seven years compared with nine and eight years, respectively, in unaffected carriers. In univariate analyses, a longer duration of oral contraceptive use and more recent use were both associated with a reduction in the risk for ovarian cancer for *BRCA1* carriers. In multivariate analyses, duration of oral contraceptive use was the prominent protective factor (hazard ratios, 0.67 and 0.37 for five to nine years and  $\geq 10$  years, respectively, compared with

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