

To help your patients receive original ALESSE, remind them to:

- Tell their pharmacist they would prefer original ALESSE
- Check the box and pill to make sure they are always receiving original ALESSE
- Ask their pharmacist to put a note in their file to always give them original ALESSE

ALESSE is the
#1 dispensed
COC in QUEBEC³

COC = combination oral contraceptive

A trusted choice in Canada for over 20 years⁴

ALESSE®

levonorgestrel 100 µg ethinyl estradiol 20 µg

Demonstrated effective contraception^{1,5}

In a study of 7,720 cycles (1,477 patients) over 15 months of use,

- the Pearl Index observed was **0.84** based on 13 cycles per year.

The Pearl Index is the accepted standard used to evaluate effectiveness of a contraceptive method.⁵

References: 1. ALESSE Product Monograph. Pfizer Canada ULC, December 3, 2018. 2. Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Statement on generic oral contraceptives. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2008;30:271-2. 3. IMS. OC-TRX-Provincial-QUEBEC Rx Monthly. February 2018 – January 2019. 4. ALESSE NOC. Health Canada, 1997. 5. Archer DF, et al. A new low-dose monophasic combination oral contraceptive (Alesse) with levonorgestrel 100 µg and ethinyl estradiol 20 µg. *Contraception* 1997;55:139-44.

IN SUPPORT OF



Working together for a healthier world®

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ALESSE®

Alesse makes sense



ALESSE is indicated for conception control and the treatment of moderate acne vulgaris in women ≥14 years of age who have no known contraindications to oral contraceptive therapy, desire contraception, and have achieved menarche.¹

Encourage your patients to ask for ALESSE by name at the pharmacy



Your patients should check their ALESSE packaging. If it's not this packaging, it's not ALESSE.

The SOGC has stated that:

“ When a specific oral contraceptive product is prescribed, the SOGC believes that no substitution should be made by a pharmacist without notice to both the patient and her healthcare provider.² ”

Clinical use:

Not indicated for use before menarche and in postmenopausal women.

Contraindications:

Combination Oral Contraceptives (COCs) are contraindicated in the following:

- History of, or actual:
 - Thrombophlebitis or thromboembolic disorders
 - Cerebrovascular disorders
 - Myocardial infarction or coronary arterial disease
 - Deep vein thrombosis
 - Migraine with focal neurological symptoms such as aura
 - Benign or malignant liver tumours
 - Pancreatitis associated with severe hypertriglyceridemia
- Known or suspected:
 - Carcinoma of the breast
 - Estrogen-dependent neoplasia
- Thrombogenic valvulopathies and thrombogenic rhythm disorders
- Hereditary or acquired thrombophilias
- Active liver disease or abnormal liver function testing
- Undiagnosed abnormal vaginal bleeding
- Steroid-dependent jaundice, cholestatic jaundice, history of jaundice of pregnancy
- Any ocular lesion arising from ophthalmic vascular disease, such as partial or complete loss of vision or defect in visual fields
- When pregnancy is suspected or diagnosed
- Diabetes with vascular involvement
- Uncontrolled hypertension
- Use with the anti-viral Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) combination drug regimen ombitasvir, paritaprevir, ritonavir and dasabuvir, with or without ribavirin

Most serious warnings and precautions:

Cigarette smoking: smoking increases the risk of serious adverse effects on the heart and blood vessels. Risk increases with age and becomes significant in hormonal contraceptives users >35 years of age who smoke. Women should be counselled not to smoke.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs): birth control pills do not protect against STIs. For protection against STIs, it is advisable to use latex or polyurethane condoms in combination with birth control pills.

Discontinue at the earliest manifestation of: thromboembolic and cardiovascular disorders; conditions that predispose to venous stasis and to vascular thrombosis; visual defects (partial or complete); papilledema or ophthalmic vascular lesions; severe headache of unknown etiology or worsening of pre-existing migraine headache; and increase in epileptic seizures.

Other relevant warnings and precautions:

For any estrogen/progestin combination, the lowest dosage regimen should be prescribed.

The use of combination hormonal contraceptives is associated with:

- Increased risk of venous and arterial thrombosis and thromboembolism, thromboembolic complications post-surgery
- Potential increased risk of breast cancer, cervical cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma
- Predisposing factors for coronary artery diseases
- Risk of increased blood pressure
- Glucose intolerance
- Adverse lipids changes
- Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis
- Persistent irregular vaginal bleeding, amenorrhea
- Fibroids
- Discontinue in case of acute or chronic disturbances of liver function, jaundice, hepatocellular injury
- Gallbladder disease
- Angioedema, fluid retention
- Changes in tolerance to contact lenses
- History of depression
- Return to fertility
- Reduced efficacy in the event of a missed dose, gastro-intestinal disturbances or concomitant medication
- Potential risk of chloasma
- Physical examination and follow-up
- Discontinue if pregnancy occurs
- Not recommended in nursing women
- Tissue specimens

For more information:

Please consult the Product Monograph at <http://pfizer.ca/pm/en/ALESSE.pdf> for important information relating to adverse reactions, drug interactions and dosing information which have not been discussed in this piece.

The Product Monograph is also available by calling 1-800-463-6001.