

November 8, 2011

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

**RE: Request to ban Yaz, Yasmin and other drospirenone  
birth control drugs**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I urge the FDA order all birth control medications containing the progestin drospirenone be removed from the U.S. market immediately. The most popular of these drugs are Bayer Healthcare's Yaz and Yasmin.

Notwithstanding substantial evidence of serious adverse effects associated with the use of Yaz, Yasmin and other newer third-generation contraceptives, these drugs remain on the market. Incredibly, Yaz continues to be the top-selling birth control pill in the United States.

I need not summarize here the body of evidence which demonstrates that these drugs place women who use them at higher risk for blood clots, strokes and other serious health problems than do other birth control pills. The FDA is fully aware of the research and numerous reports of adverse events.

As early as 2002, the consumer watchdog organization Public Citizen listed Yasmin as a **Do Not Use** drug. In 2007, it petitioned the FDA to ban Yaz. Last month, the FDA released the latest study report which revealed that, on average, women taking Yaz were at a 75% greater risk of experiencing a blood clot than were women taking older birth control drugs containing other progestins. Still, these demonstrably dangerous contraceptives remain on the market.

Dr. Diana Zuckerman, President of the National Center for Women and Families, best summarized the case for an FDA ordered ban on Yaz, Yasmin and other drospirenone-containing birth control drugs when she wrote, "At a certain point we have to ask why the FDA continues to approve drugs that are less safe and have no benefit compared to drugs already on the market. With all these different birth control options, why take the most expensive one that can also kill you?"

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It is well past time that Yaz, Yasmin and other drospirenone drugs were removed from the market.

Sincerely,

O'STEEN & HARRISON, PLC  
Attorneys at Law

***Van O'Steen***

Van O'Steen

BVO:kp

O'Steen & Harrison, PLC  
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*cease to be laws,*

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***Thomas E. Moriarty***