



The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, the Canadian Dermatology Association, the Federation of Medical Women in Canada and the Canadian Pharmacists Association wishes to outline a few facts regarding DIANE®-35 following a report aired on Tuesday January 14, 2003 on CBC's Disclosure program.

- DIANE®-35 is a medication prescribed to women suffering from severe acne, hirsutism (facial hair) and other signals of androgenization (excess of male hormones).
- DIANE®-35 is NOT indicated for use as an oral contraceptive (birth control pill) alone and should not be prescribed as such. However, when taken as recommended for the approved indications, DIANE®-35 will provide reliable contraception. Women taking DIANE®-35 should not be prescribed an additional hormonal contraceptive.
- Use of estrogen/progestin combination oral contraceptives (birth control pill) increases your risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE-blood clot), including deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, compared with no use. The absolute risk to any individual user is low. It is estimated that 1-3 of every 10,000 users will have a blood clot in a year. This is approximately the same risk for blood clot that results from smoking cigarettes or being obese and is less than one half of the risk of blood clots associated with a normal pregnancy.
- Although DIANE®-35 is not approved as an oral contraceptive (birth control pill), it has many properties in common with combination oral contraceptives, and therefore the same warnings and precautions that apply to combination oral contraceptives should be considered for DIANE®-35.
- Since its Canadian launch in 1998, not a single registered death has been attributed to DIANE®-35.
- Thousands of Canadian physicians have prescribed DIANE®-35 and feel confident that it is both safe and effective.
- We recommend that you do not make any changes to your existing treatment without first consulting with your physician