Author’s response to reviews

Title: Past oral contraceptive use and high blood pressure in postmenopausal women: an observational cohort study

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To the Editors,

RE: Past oral contraceptive use and high blood pressure in postmenopausal women: an observational cohort study

This study uses data from 34,378 women recruited as part of the largest Australian cohort study ever established, the 45 and Up Study. Our study shows that past hormonal contraceptive use and duration of use is not associated with high blood pressure in postmenopausal women.

We believe this work will be of interest to your readers as very few studies have focused on past hormonal contraceptive use and risk of subsequent high blood pressure. This is the first study to use an Australian cohort to show past exposure to hormonal contraceptives are unlikely to influence a woman’s risk of having high blood pressure later in life, regardless of duration of use.

This work is not under review by any other journal. The 45 and Up Study received ethics approval from the University of NSW Human Ethics Committee and the current study was approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. All authors fulfil the requirements for authorship. There is no known conflict of interest between any of the authors.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Lind