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2. Ethinyl estradiol/ethynodiol

# Ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate

**Generic name:** ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate [ *ETH-in-ill-ESS-tra-DYE-ol-and-ETH-in-o-DYE-ol-dye-AS-e-tate* ]

**Brand names:** Kelnor, [Kelnor 1/50](#), [Zovia 1/35](#), Zovia 1/50, [Demulen 1/35](#), ... [show all 8 brands](#)

**Dosage form:** oral tablet (35 mcg-1 mg; 50 mcg-1 mg)

**Drug class:** [Contraceptives](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 4, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#)   [Side effects](#)   [Warnings](#)   [Before taking](#)   [Dosage](#)   [Interactions](#)

## What is ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate?

[Ethinyl estradiol](#) and ethynodiol diacetate is a combination [birth control pill](#) containing female hormones that prevent ovulation (the release of an egg from an ovary). ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate also causes changes in your cervical mucus and uterine lining, making it harder for sperm to reach the uterus and harder for a fertilized egg to attach to the uterus.

Ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate is used to prevent pregnancy.

Ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Birth control pills side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Birth control pills may cause serious side effects. Stop using birth control pills and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- **signs of a stroke**--sudden numbness or weakness (especially on one side of the body), sudden severe headache, slurred speech, problems with vision or balance;
- **signs of a blood clot**--sudden vision loss, stabbing chest pain, feeling short of breath, coughing up blood, pain or warmth in one or both legs;
- **heart attack symptoms**--chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, nausea, sweating;
- **liver problems**--loss of appetite, upper stomach pain, tiredness, fever, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- **increased blood pressure**--severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears;
- swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet;

- changes in the pattern or severity of migraine headaches;
- a breast lump; or
- **symptoms of depression**--sleep problems, weakness, tired feeling, mood changes.

**Common side effects of ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate may include:**

- nausea, vomiting (especially when you first start taking this medicine);
- breast tenderness;
- [breakthrough bleeding](#);
- acne, darkening of facial skin;
- weight gain; or
- problems with contact lenses.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Ethinyl estradiol / ethynodiol side effects](#) (more detail)

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## Warnings

**Do not use birth control pills if you are pregnant or if you have recently had a baby.**

**You should not use birth control pills if you have:** uncontrolled [high blood pressure](#), [heart disease](#), [coronary artery disease](#), circulation problems (especially with diabetes), undiagnosed vaginal bleeding, [liver disease](#) or [liver cancer](#), severe migraine headaches, if you also take certain hepatitis C medication, if you will have major surgery, if you smoke and are over 35, or if you have ever had a [heart attack](#), a stroke, a blood clot, jaundice caused by pregnancy or [birth control pills](#), or cancer of the breast, uterus/cervix, or vagina.

**Taking birth control pills can increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, or heart attack.**

**Smoking can greatly increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, or heart attack.** You should not take [birth control pills](#) if you smoke and are over 35 years old.

## Before taking this medicine

**Taking birth control pills can increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, or heart attack.** You are even more at risk if you have high blood pressure, diabetes, [high cholesterol](#), or if you are overweight. Your risk of stroke or blood clot is highest during your first year of taking birth control pills. Your risk is also high when you restart birth control pills after not taking them for 4 weeks or longer.

**Smoking can greatly increase your risk of blood clots, stroke, or heart attack.** Your risk increases the older you are and the more you smoke. You should not take combination birth control pills if you smoke and are over 35 years old.

**Do not use if you are pregnant.** Stop taking ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate and tell your doctor if you become pregnant, or if you miss two menstrual periods in a row. If you have recently had a baby, wait at least 4 weeks before taking birth control pills.

You should not take birth control pills if you have:

- untreated or uncontrolled high blood pressure;
- heart disease (coronary artery disease, uncontrolled heart valve disorder, history of heart attack, stroke, or blood clot);
- an increased risk of having blood clots due to a heart problem or a hereditary blood disorder;
- circulation problems (especially if caused by diabetes);
- a history of hormone-related cancer, or cancer of the breast, uterus/cervix, or vagina;
- unusual vaginal bleeding that has not been checked by a doctor;
- liver disease or liver cancer;
- severe migraine headaches (with aura, numbness, weakness, or vision changes), especially if you are older than 35;
- a history of jaundice caused by pregnancy or birth control pills;
- if you smoke and are over 35 years old; or
- if you take any hepatitis C medication containing [ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir](#) (Technivie).

To make sure birth control pills are safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart disease, high blood pressure, or if you are prone to having blood clots;
- [varicose veins](#);
- high cholesterol or triglycerides, or if you are overweight;

- depression;
- migraine headaches;
- diabetes, [gallbladder disease](#);
- seizures or epilepsy;
- kidney disease;
- irregular menstrual cycles;
- tuberculosis; or
- [fibrocystic breast disease](#), lumps, nodules, or an abnormal mammogram.

The hormones in birth control pills can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. This medication may also slow breast milk production. Do not use if you are breast-feeding a baby.

## How should I take birth control pills?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

You will take your first pill on the first day of your period or on the first Sunday after your period begins. You may need to use back-up birth control, such as condoms or a spermicide, when you first start using this medication. Follow your doctor's instructions.

Take one pill every day, no more than 24 hours apart. When the pills run out, start a new pack the following day. **You may get pregnant if you do not take one pill daily.** Get your prescription refilled before you run out of pills completely.

Some birth control packs contain "reminder" pills to keep you on your regular cycle. Your period will usually begin while you are using these reminder pills.

**You may have breakthrough bleeding, especially during the first 3 months.** Tell your doctor if this bleeding continues or is very heavy.

Use a back-up birth control if you are sick with severe vomiting or diarrhea.

**If you need major surgery or will be on long-term bed rest,** you may need to stop using this medicine for a short time. Any doctor or surgeon who treats you should know that you are using birth control pills.

While taking birth control pills, you will need to visit your doctor regularly.

Store this medication at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

## Ethinyl estradiol and ethynodiol diacetate dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Contraception:

Ethinyl estradiol-ethynodiol products are packaged in 21 or 28 day dosage preparations. The last seven tablets in 28 day dosage preparations are hormonally inert.

1 tablet orally at the same time once a day

-Begin on the first day of menstrual period (Day 1 start)

If the start date of the initial cycle is any day other than the first day of the menstrual cycle, this drug should not be considered effective as a contraceptive until after the first 7 consecutive days of administration have been completed; a non-hormonal contraceptive should be used as back-up during these first 7 days

Comments:

-This drug should be taken in the order directed on the package at the same time each day

-The possibility of ovulation and conception prior to initiation should be considered.

Use: This drug is indicated in women to prevent pregnancy.

### **Usual Pediatric Dose for Contraception:**

Ethinyl estradiol-ethynodiol products are packaged in 21 or 28 day dosage preparations. The last seven tablets in 28 day dosage preparations are hormonally inert.

Postpubertal adolescents:

1 tablet orally at the same time once a day

-Begin on the first day of menstrual period (Day 1 start)

If the start date of the initial cycle is any day other than the first day of the menstrual cycle, this drug should not be considered effective as a contraceptive until after the first 7 consecutive days of administration have been completed; a non-hormonal contraceptive should be used as back-up during these first 7 days

Comments:

-This drug should be taken in the order directed on the package at the same time each day

-The possibility of ovulation and conception prior to initiation should be considered.

Use: This drug is indicated in women to prevent pregnancy.

 [Detailed Ethinyl estradiol / ethynodiol dosage information](#)

## **What happens if I miss a dose?**

Follow the patient instructions provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions. Missing a pill increases your risk of becoming pregnant.

**If you miss one active pill,** take two pills on the day that you remember. Then take one pill per day for the rest of the pack.

**If you miss two active pills in a row in Week 1 or 2,** take two pills per day for two days in a row. Then take one pill per day for the rest of the pack. Use back-up birth control for at least 7 days following the missed pills.

**If you miss two active pills in a row in Week 3,** throw out the rest of the pack and start a new pack the same day if you are a Day 1 starter. If you are a Sunday starter, keep taking a pill every day until Sunday. On Sunday, throw out the rest of the pack and start a new pack that day.

**If you miss three active pills in a row in Week 1, 2, or 3,** throw out the rest of the pack and start a new pack on the

same day if you are a Day 1 starter. If you are a Sunday starter, keep taking a pill every day until Sunday. On Sunday, throw out the rest of the pack and start a new pack that day.

If you miss two or more pills, you may not have a period during the month. **If you miss a period for two months in a row, call your doctor because you might be pregnant.**

If you miss a reminder pill, throw it away and keep taking one reminder pill per day until the pack is empty.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. Overdose symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, and vaginal bleeding.

## What should I avoid while taking birth control pills?

**Do not smoke while taking birth control pills**, especially if you are older than 35 years of age.

Birth control pills will not protect you from [sexually transmitted diseases](#)--including HIV and AIDS. Using a condom is the only way to protect yourself from these diseases.

## What other drugs will affect birth control pills?

Other drugs may interact with birth control pills, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). **Some drugs can make birth control pills less effective, which may result in pregnancy.** Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

**i** [Ethinyl estradiol / ethynodiol drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does ethinyl estradiol/ethynodiol interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

ethinyl estradiol/ethynodiol

+

Enter a drug name

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## More about ethinyl estradiol / ethynodiol

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Kelnor 1/35](#), [Kelnor 1/50](#), [Zovia 1/35E](#), [Zovia 1/35](#), ... +3 more

## Professional resources

- [Ethinodiol diacetate and Ethinyl Estradiol prescribing information](#)

### Other brands

[Kelnor 1/35](#), [Kelnor 1/50](#), [Zovia 1/35E](#), [Valtva 1/35](#), ... +2 more

## Related treatment guides

- [Birth Control](#)
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## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

### [Medical Disclaimer](#)

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### DRUG STATUS

#### Availability

**Rx** Prescription only

#### [Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

#### CSA Schedule\*





N/A Not a controlled drug

### Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



## User Reviews & Ratings

6.0 / 10

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