

# The Medical Letter<sup>®</sup>

## on Drugs and Therapeutics

Volume 66

Published online November 7, 2024

Advance  
Release  
Article

### IN THIS ISSUE

In Brief: *Femlyv* – An Orally-Disintegrating Hormonal Contraceptive

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### IN BRIEF

## *Femlyv* – An Orally-Disintegrating Hormonal Contraceptive

*Femlyv* (Millicent), an orally-disintegrating tablet containing ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone acetate, has been approved by the FDA for prevention of pregnancy in females with a body mass index (BMI)  $\leq 35$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>. It is the first hormonal contraceptive to become available in an orally-disintegrating tablet formulation. Traditional oral and chewable tablets containing ethinyl estradiol and norethindrone acetate in a wide range of doses, including those found in *Femlyv*, have been available in the US for years.

#### Pronunciation Key

*Femlyv*: fem liv

**CHOICE OF CONTRACEPTIVES** – Intrauterine devices (IUDs) and the etonogestrel implant (*Nexplanon*) are the most effective reversible contraceptive methods, but they require an office visit for placement and removal. Combination and progestin-only hormonal contraceptives (oral tablets, transdermal patches, vaginal rings) and injectable medroxyprogesterone acetate are also highly effective for preventing pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** – *Femlyv* is supplied in cartons containing 3 blister cards. Each blister card contains 24 active (0.02 mg of ethinyl estradiol and 1 mg of norethindrone acetate) and 4 inert spearmint-flavored tablets. The recommended dosage is one tablet taken once daily in the order directed on the blister card. The tablet should be placed on top of the tongue and allowed to disintegrate. Patients should drink 8 ounces of water afterwards.

**COST** – The wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for an 84-day supply of *Femlyv* is \$591, compared to \$20-260 for traditional oral or chewable contraceptive tablets containing the same hormones.<sup>2</sup>

**CONCLUSION** – The orally-disintegrating hormonal combination oral contraceptive *Femlyv* is an acceptable option for females who have difficulty swallowing traditional tablets, but chewable oral contraceptives containing the same two hormones as *Femlyv* are available at a lower cost. ■

1. Choice of contraceptives. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2023; 65:73.
2. Approximate WAC. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. November 5, 2024. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2024. [www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy](http://www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy).

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