

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON HEALTH CENTER

-HEALTHBERRY-
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**ANTIBIOTICS AND ORAL
CONTRACEPTIVE FAILURE**

Throughout the medical literature, there are reports that antibiotics may decrease the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. The mechanism of action is thought to be the decrease of the hormone's concentration in the blood. For example, rifampin significantly decreases the hormonal levels of oral contraceptives even after a single dose; while ampicillin, tetracycline, doxycycline, erythromycin and minocycline showed no statistically significant differences in the blood levels of oral contraceptives.

Nevertheless, many respected medical authors acknowledge a low but unpredictable incidence of combination oral contraceptive pill failure with concomitant antibiotic use. Most all recommend the use of alternate contraception for the length of antibiotic therapy (or 14 days, whichever is longer) plus 7 days, initiating this at the start of antibiotic therapy.

We at the Health Center will be happy to help you.



Healthfully yours,

Dr. Healthberry

For questions or comments you can;

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