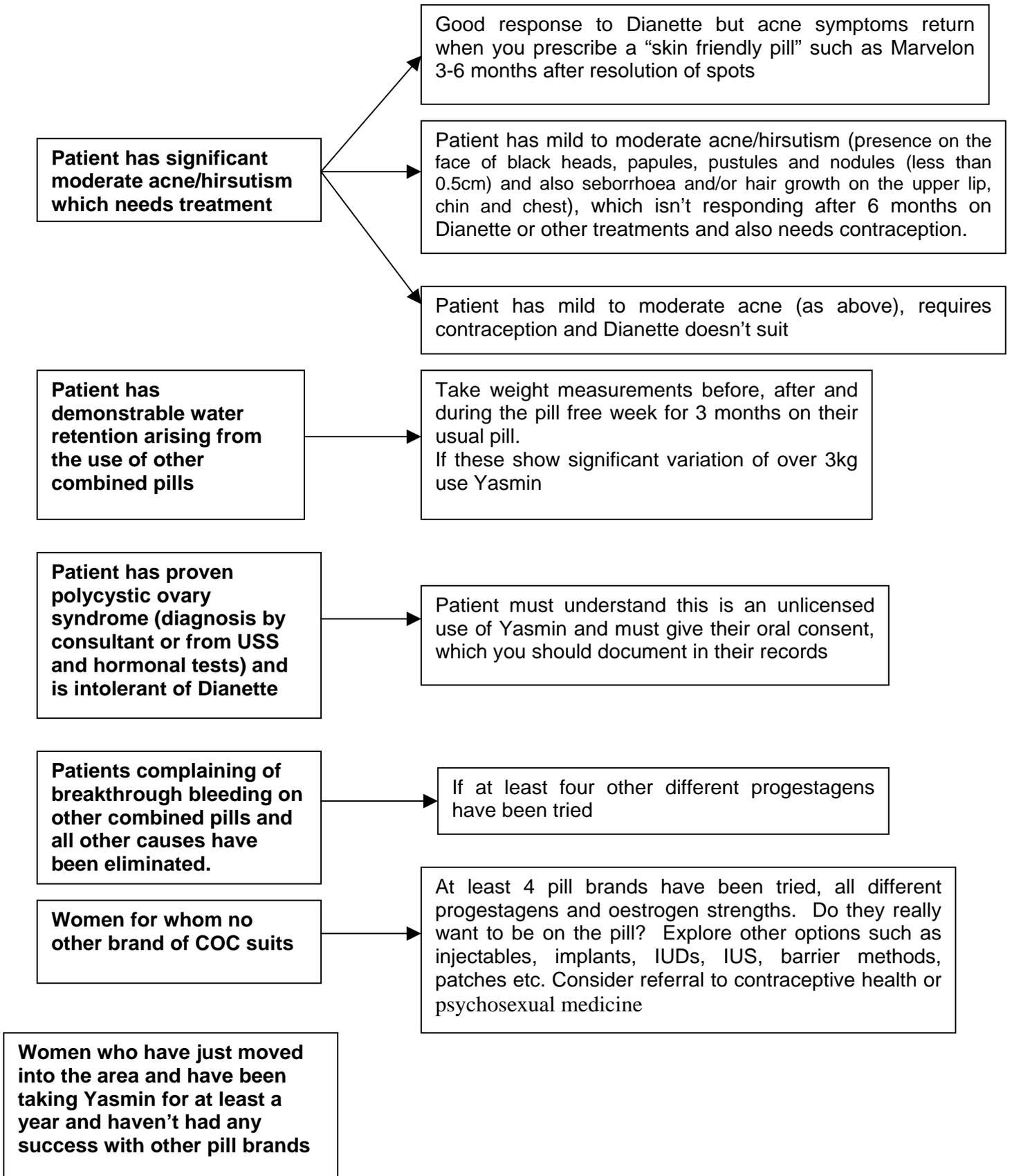


BOURNEMOUTH, DORSET AND POOLE PRESCRIBING FORUM

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF YASMIN® FOR ORAL CONTRACEPTION

Yasmin has been categorised as **green** within the “traffic light” system for use when the following criteria are satisfied:



Background

Yasmin is a combined oral contraceptive (COC) pill whose progestagen component is drospironone. This pill was initially red lighted in Dorset because there was very little evidence about its safety (there were some initial concerns about the increased risk of Venous Thromboembolism) and also whether its high cost (£14.70/3 months) justified a place on a formulary without good evidence to suggest it was any better than longer established COCs.

Recent evidence and experience suggest it may have a role as a niche product for women with the following conditions.

- As effective as Dianette (a preparation licensed for the treatment of acne which also has contraceptive effects, £9.32/3 months) for treating acne
- Some evidence that it is an effective treatment of women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) who do not want to become pregnant (by reducing the antiandrogen effects and preventing endometrial build up)
- Recent evidence that it is as effective as Dianette in treating hirsutism
- As effective as other COCs at preventing pregnancy
- Cycle control good
- Helps women who have demonstrable cyclical fluid retention on other pills.

European Active Surveillance Study (Euras)¹. This was a multi national prospective non-interventional cohort study of new users of all combined contraceptive pills. Loss to follow-up was only 2.4%. Post marketing surveillance study cohort study carried out between 2000-2006 and consisting of 58,674 participants.

No difference in the rates of VTE between second and third generation pills or Yasmin.

The risk of VTE regardless of the preparation increases to 23 per 10,000 in women with a body mass index of over 30. This represents a three fold increase in risk compared to women who's BMI was 20-25.

1. The Safety of a drospirenone-containing oral contraceptive; final results from the European Active Surveillance study on Oral contraceptives based on 142, 475 women years of observation. Dinger JC et al Contraception 2007 May; 75(5):344-54

Costs correct at August 2007

Date agreed by Forum – Sept 2007

Review date –Sept 2009