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## Ortho Evra Recall Requested By Public Citizen Due To Blood Clot Risks

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POSTED: Thursday, May 08, 2008

FROM BLOG: [Drug Injury Watch](#) - Prescription Drug Side Effects News and Information from Attorney Tom Lamb

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### Women Have Developed Serious Side Effects Like Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE) After Using This Birth Control Patch

**(Posted by Tom Lamb at [DrugInjuryWatch.com](#))**

On May 8, 2008 Public Citizen's Health Research Group (HRG) sent its "[Petition to the FDA to Ban Ortho-Evra](#)" to Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach. In this 11-page letter, Sidney Wolfe, M.D., the Director of HRG, discusses [the increased risk of blood clots and serious side effects](#) associated with Johnson & Johnson's Ortho Evra birth control patch, sometimes referred to simply as "the Patch". In summary, Dr. Wolfe points out:

Compared to standard 35 microgram estrogen/progestin oral contraceptives, Ortho-Evra results in:

- 60% more estrogen on average exposure;
- greater variability in estrogen levels;
- a possible two-fold increased risk of venous thrombosis (typically, painful blood clots of the leg which can travel to the lungs and cause death)....

This May 2008 Petition concludes with a request for a "gradual recall" of the Patch:

Public Citizen therefore requests a six-month transition period in which Ortho-Evra will be available for refill prescriptions to allow women time to meet with their healthcare provider and seek an alternative contraceptive method.

A May 8, 2008 *Reuters* article, "[US Group wants FDA to pull J&J birth control patch](#)", summarily presents the long-standing FDA and drug company positions as regards this allegation by Public Citizen that Ortho Evra is unsafe and, therefore, the Patch should be removed from the market:


The FDA has said the chance of developing a clot is low. For every 10,000 women who use hormonal contraceptives for one year, some three to five of them will develop a clot, the agency has said.

Ortho Women's Health & Urology, the J&J division that makes the contraceptive patch, has said its patch has risks and benefits like all hormonal contraceptives.

We will look for what the FDA and J&J have to say, if anything, about this May 2008 Ortho Evra Petition from Public Citizen in the days to come.

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