

Quiz: From Association to Causation

The association between oral contraceptive use and clotting diseases has been the subject of considerable epidemiologic debate. Below are statements that helped bolster causal arguments on this subject. In each instance, select the SINGLE best criterion addressed by the statement.

1. The rate of cardiovascular disease increases progressively with higher dosage formulations

(a) Strength	(b) Consistency	(c) Specificity
(d) Temporality	*(e) Biological Gradient	(f) Biological Plausibility
2. Laboratory studies have shown that oral contraceptive use increase the formation of blood clots.

(a) Strength	(b) Consistency	(c) Specificity
(d) Temporality	(e) Biological Gradient	*(f) Biological Plausibility
3. In the 1970s, it was established that oral contraceptives use approximately tripled the risk of cardiovascular disease death in women of childbearing age.

*(a) Strength	(b) Consistency	(c) Specificity
(d) Temporality	(e) Biological Gradient	(f) Biological Plausibility
4. Nearly all studies show a positive association between oral contraceptive use and cardiovascular disease.

(a) Strength	*(b) Consistency	(c) Specificity
(d) Temporality	(e) Biological Gradient	(f) Biological Plausibility
5. The risk of cardiovascular disease increases soon after oral contraceptive use has begun.

(a) Strength	(b) Consistency	(c) Specificity
*(d) Temporality	(e) Biological Gradient	(f) Biological Plausibility

Bonus question: In what year did the Surgeon General of the United States convene a panel to advise him on issues of smoking and health? **1964