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No personality differences between oral contraceptive users and naturally cycling women:

Implications for research on sex hormones

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Highlights

- Studied two large samples of oral contraceptive users and naturally cycling women
- Replicated analyses revealed no group differences in Big Five personality factors
- Results did not change when reason for pill use or type of pill was considered
- Suggests previously-reported group differences may be linked to neuroendocrinology

Oral contraceptives (OCs) are the most widely used contraception method, and there is increasing interest in their effects on cognition, affect, and brain structure and function. Since women are not randomly assigned to OC use or non-use, it is unclear if previously-reported differences between OC users and naturally cycling (NC) women are due to sex hormones or to personal characteristics associated with pill use. The aim of this study was to fill this knowledge gap by comparing OC users and NC women on the Big Five personality factors. Participants

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