

**QUALITY EVALUATION OF RETAILED LEVONORGESTREL-ONLY  
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILL: A CASE STUDY OF THIKA TOWN**

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## ABSTRACT

Levonorgestrel is a second generation synthetic progestogen. It is used either alone or in combination with estrogen as contraceptive pill. The levonorgestrel-only contraceptive pills are formulated as 1.5 mg or 0.75 mg tablets usually administered within 3 days of unprotected sex. This study was to determine the quality of the retailed pill using the percentage content of active principle, friability and disintegration tests of the different brands which were labeled A to H. Data obtained showed 87.86 %  $w/w \pm 1.6$  and 100.16 %  $w/w \pm 1.3$  content of active principle for brands A and B. Friability test gave 0.92 %  $w/w$  and 0.12 %  $w/w$ , while disintegration time was 2.02 and 1.93 minutes for test samples A and B respectively. Data suggests that there are brands with poor quality as indicated by brand A with respect to the recommendation of the official compendium (United States Pharmacopoeia) for percentage content. The results showed that there are lapses in the post market surveillance and regulation of the different brands of the pill. Hence there is the need to intensify random quality checks of products in the market.

**Keywords: Disintegration, Friability, Percentage content.**