## Norgestrel

ノルゲストレル

 $C_{21}H_{28}O_2$ : 312.45 13-Ethyl-17-hydroxy-18,19-dinor-17 $\alpha$ -pregn-4-en-20-yn-3-one [6533-00-2]

Norgestrel, when dried, contains not less than 98.0% of  $C_{21}H_{28}O_2$ .

**Description** Norgestrel occurs as white crystals or crystalline powder.

It is soluble in tetrahydrofuran and in chloroform, sparingly soluble in ethanol (95), slightly soluble in diethyl ether, and practically insoluble in water.

**Identification** (1) Dissolve 1 mg of Norgestrel in 2 mL of ethanol (95), and add 1 mL of sulfuric acid: a red-purple color develops. With this solution, examine under ultraviolet light (main wavelength: 365 nm): the solution shows a red-orange fluorescence.

(2) Determine the infrared absorption spectrum of Norgestrel, previously dried, as directed in the potassium bromide disk method under the Infrared Spectrophotometry, and compare the spectrum with the Reference Spectrum: both spectra exhibit similar intensities of absorption at the same wave numbers.

Melting point 206 – 212°C

**Purity** (1) Heavy metals—Take 1.0 g of Norgestrel, heat gently to carbonize, cool, add 10 mL of a solution of magnesium nitrate hexahydrate in ethanol (95) (1 in 10), and ignite the ethanol to burn. After cooling, add 1 mL of sulfuric acid, proceed with this solution according to Method 4, and perform the test. Prepare the control solution with 2.0 mL of Standard Lead Solution (not more than 20 ppm).

(2) Other steroids—Dissolve 0.030 g of Norgestrel in 5 mL of chloroform, and use this solution as the sample solution. Pipet 1 mL of the sample solution, add chloroform to make exactly 100 mL, and use this solution as the standard solution. Perform the test with these solutions as directed under the Thin-layer Chromatography. Spot  $10 \,\mu\text{L}$  each of the sample solution and the standard solution on a plate of silica gel with fluorescent indicator for thin-layer chromatography. Develop the plate with a mixture of dichloromethane and ethyl acetate (2:1) to a distance of about 10 cm, and air-dry the plate. Examine under ultraviolet light (main wavelength: 254 nm): the spots other than the principal spot from the sample solution are not more intense than the spot from the standard solution.

**Loss on drying** Not more than 0.5% (1 g, 105°C, 3 hours). **Residue on ignition** Not more than 0.2% (0.5 g).

Assay Weigh accurately about 0.2 g of Norgestrel, previously dried, dissolve in 40 mL of tetrahydrofuran, add 10

mL of a solution of silver nitrate (1 in 20), and titrate with 0.1 mol/L sodium hydroxide VS (potentiometric titration). Perform a blank determination, and make any necessary correction.

Each mL of 0.1 mol/L sodium hydroxide VS = 31.245 mg of  $C_{21}H_{28}O_2$ 

Containers and storage Containers—Well-closed containers

## Norgestrel and Ethinylestradiol Tablets

ノルゲストレル・エチニルエストラジオール錠

Norgestrel and Ethinylestradiol Tablets contain not less than 90% and not more than 110% of the labeled amount of norgestrel ( $C_{21}H_{28}O_2$ : 312.45) and ethinylestradiol ( $C_{20}H_{24}O_2$ : 296.40).

**Method of preparation** Prepare as directed under the Tablets, with Norgestrel and Ethinylestradiol.

Identification (1) Weigh a quantity of Norgestrel and Ethinylestradiol Tablets, equivalent to 10 mg of Norgestrel according to the labeled amount, previously powdered, add 10 mL of chloroform, shake for 10 minutes, and filter. To 2 mL of the filtrate add 6 mL of sodium hydroxide TS, shake vigorously, and centrifuge. Take 1 mL of the chloroform layer, evaporate on a water bath to dryness, dissolve the residue in 2 mL of ethanol (95), and add 1 mL of sulfuric acid: a red-purple color develops. Examine under ultraviolet light (main wavelength: 365 nm): this solution shows a redorange fluorescence (norgestrel).

(2) Take 1 mL of the filtrate obtained in (1), evaporate on a water bath to dryness, add 1 mL of boric acid-methanol buffer solution to the residue, shake, and cool in ice. Add 1 mL of ice-cold diazo TS, shake, add 1 mL of sodi-um hydroxide TS, and shake: a red-orange color develops (ethinylestradiol).

(3) Use the filtrate obtained in (1) as the sample solution. Separately, dissolve 10 mg of Norgestrel Reference Standard and 1 mg of Ethinylestradiol Reference Standard, respectively, in 10 mL of chloroform, and use these solutions as the standard solution (1) and the standard solution (2). Perform the test with these solutions as directed under the Thin-layer Chromatography. Spot 20 µL each of the sample solution and the standard solutions (1) and (2) on a plate of silica gel for thin-layer chromatography. Develop the plate with a mixture of 1,2-dichloroethane, methanol and water (368:32:1) to a distance of about 10 cm, and airdry the plate. Spray evenly a solution of p-toluenesulfonate in ethanol (95) (1 in 5) on the plate, and heat at 105°C for 5 minutes. Examine under ultraviolet light (main wavelength: 365nm): two spots from the sample solution show the similar color tone and Rf value to each spot from the standard solution (1) and (2).

**Content uniformity** Add 2 mL of diluted methanol (7 in 10) to 1 tablet of Norgestrel and Ethinylestradiol Tablets, add exactly 2 mL of the internal standard solution, shake for 20 minutes, and centrifuge. Filter the supernatant liquid