



The Jacobs Center Research Seminar Series

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The Side Effects of the Oral Contraceptive Pill



This paper studies the impact of the oral contraceptive pill on young women's mental health. Using administrative data from Denmark, we exploit variation in the timing of pill initiation in an event study framework. We find that a few months after getting on the pill, there is an increase in the probability that the girl is diagnosed with a mental health disorder or takes antidepressant medication. We then show that there is a large variation in family doctors' propensity to prescribe the pill,

which is not driven by observable characteristics of their patients. We finally document that being assigned to a doctor with a high pill prescription rate increases the chances of (early) pill initiation and worsens mental health outcomes for teenage girls. The tendency to prescribe the pill is unrelated to outcomes for boys.

Friday, November 25, 2022, 10:15 h

The talk will be held at Andreasstrasse 15, 8050 Zurich, AND 4.06 (4th floor)