

# Hormone Replacement Therapy in Cancer Survivors – Review of the Literature

Pathology & Oncology  
Research

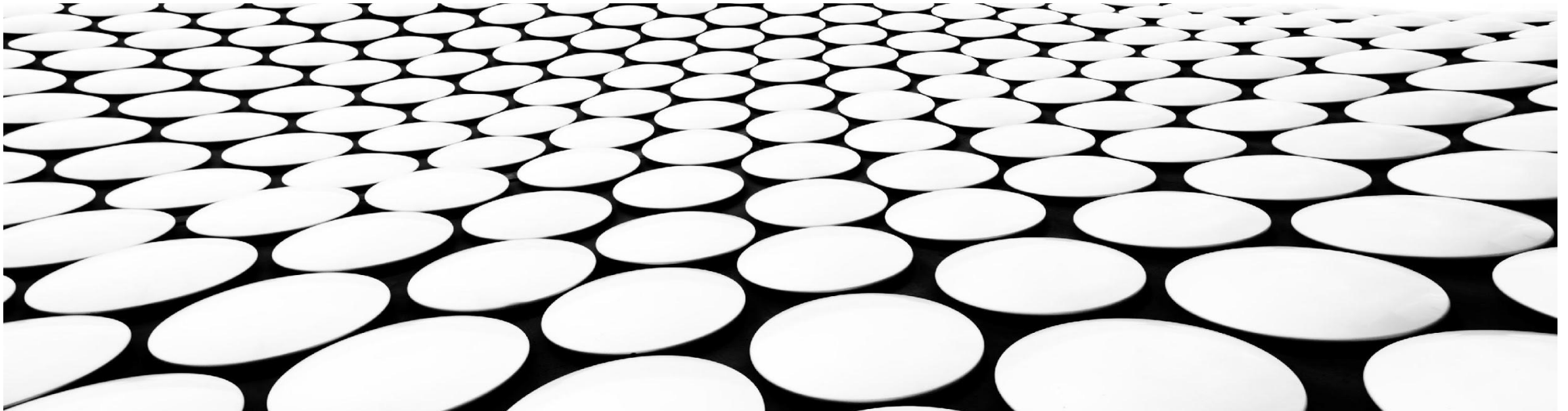
Tamás Deli<sup>1</sup> • Mónika Orosz<sup>1</sup> • Attila Jakab<sup>1</sup>

Received: 23 July 2018 / Accepted: 18 December 2018 / Published online: 8 January 2019

© The Author(s) 2019

REPORTER : 許越涵

SUPERVISOR : 黃貞瑜主任 & 顏明賢主任





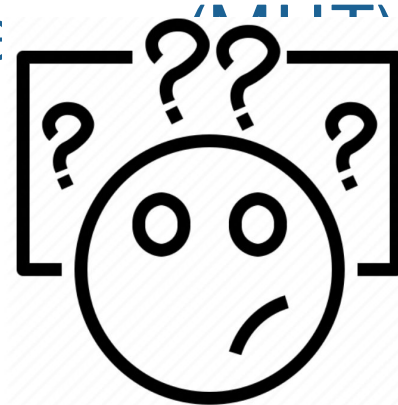
menopaus  
e

increasing survival of oncologic  
patients

vasomotor symptoms  
cardiovascular effects  
skeletal effects

hormone replacement therapy  
(HRT)

menopausal hormone the



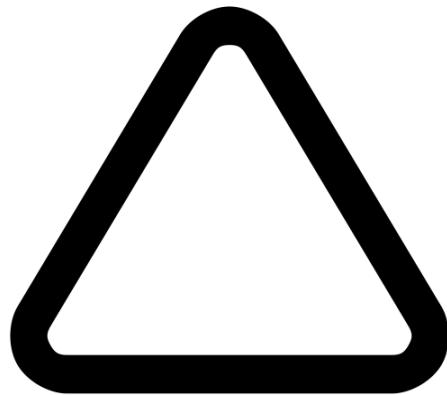
From in vitro experiments to clinical studies

Gynecologic & Non-gynecologic cancers

Grouping



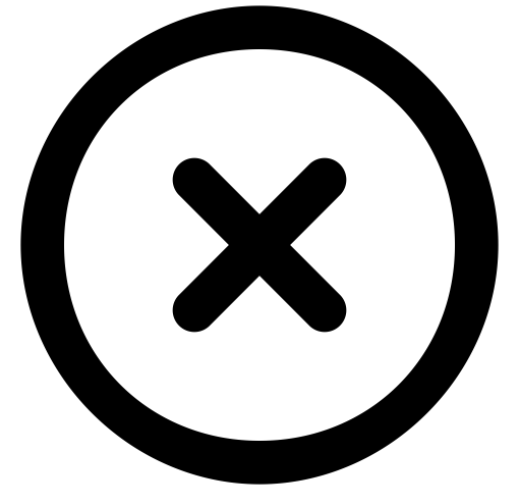
advantageous



neutral



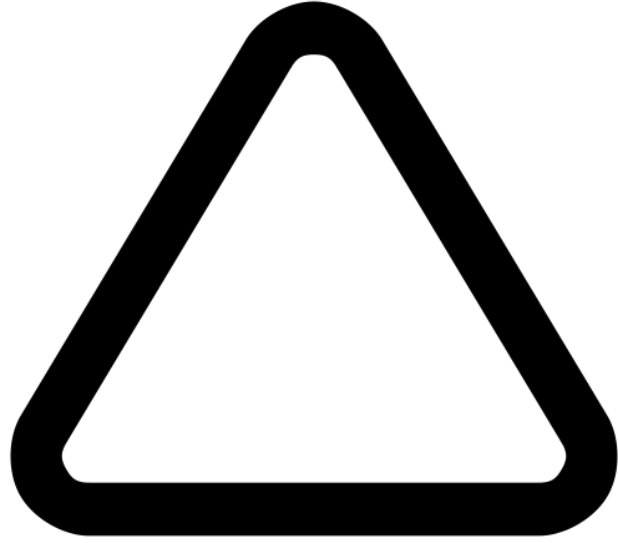
relatively  
contraindicated



contraindicated



- Endometrial cancer type I
- Cervical adenocarcinoma
- Haematologic malignancies
- Local cutaneous malignant melanoma
- Colorectal cancer
- Hepatocellular cancer

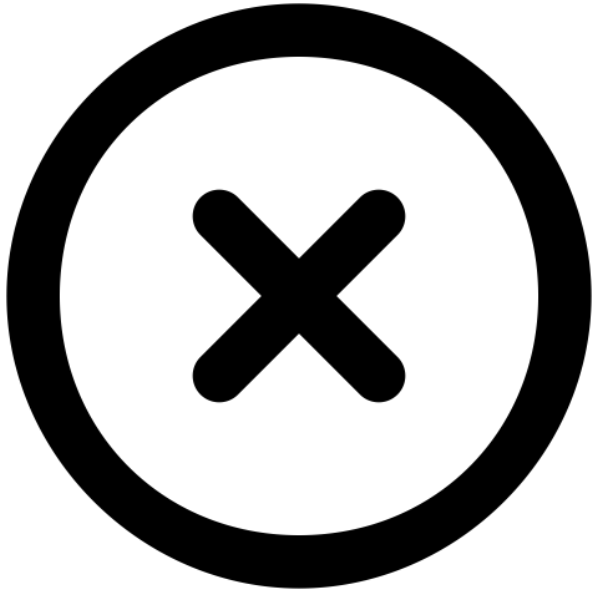


- BRCA 1/2 mutation carriers without cancer
- endometrial cancer type II
- uterine carcinosarcoma and adenosarcoma
- certain types of ovarian cancer
- cervical, vaginal and vulvar squamous cell carcinoma
- prolactinoma
- kidney cancer
- pancreatic cancer
- thyroid cancer



relatively  
contraindicated

- Leiomyosarcoma
- Certain types of ovarian tumors
- Brain tumors
- Advanced metastatic malignant melanoma
- Lung cancer
- Gastric cancer
- Bladder cancer



contraindicat  
ed

- Breast cancer
- Endometrial stroma sarcoma
- Meningioma
- Glioma
- Hormone receptor positive gastric cancer
- Hormone receptor positive bladder cancer



to induce  
tumors



cancer recurrence and  
progression





premature ovarian  
failure

- genetic diseases
- autoimmune diseases
- the consequence of other benign ovarian pathology

physiological menopause around the age of  
50 y/o

# Cancer

- the organ
- histologic type
- molecular characteristics
- grade
- stage
- therapy
- time of survival since therapy
- endocrine characteristics
- surrounding stromal tissue
- immune response

# HRT

- estrogenic and progestagenic compound type
- dose
- sequential or continuous
- route
- duration



**Individualized**  
decision-making



- preclinical research
- case reports
- retrospective studies
- randomized controlled trials
- meta-analyses

---

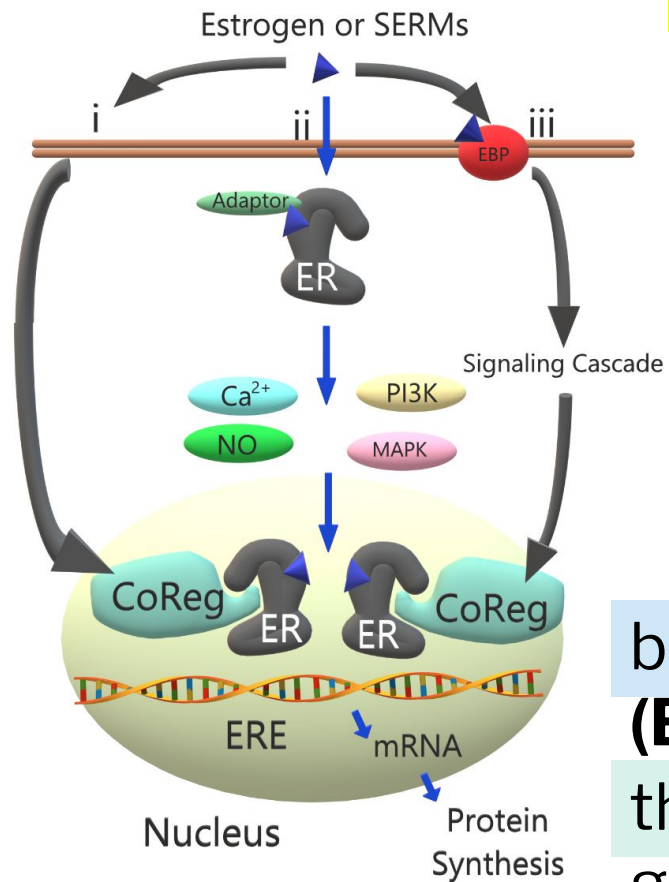
# Determinants of Estrogen Effect on Tissues

Estrogen

estrogen receptors

(ERs)  
ER $\alpha$  and  
ER $\beta$

**dimerization**



- direct
- by transcription factors (TFs)

binding to **estrogen response elements (ERE)**

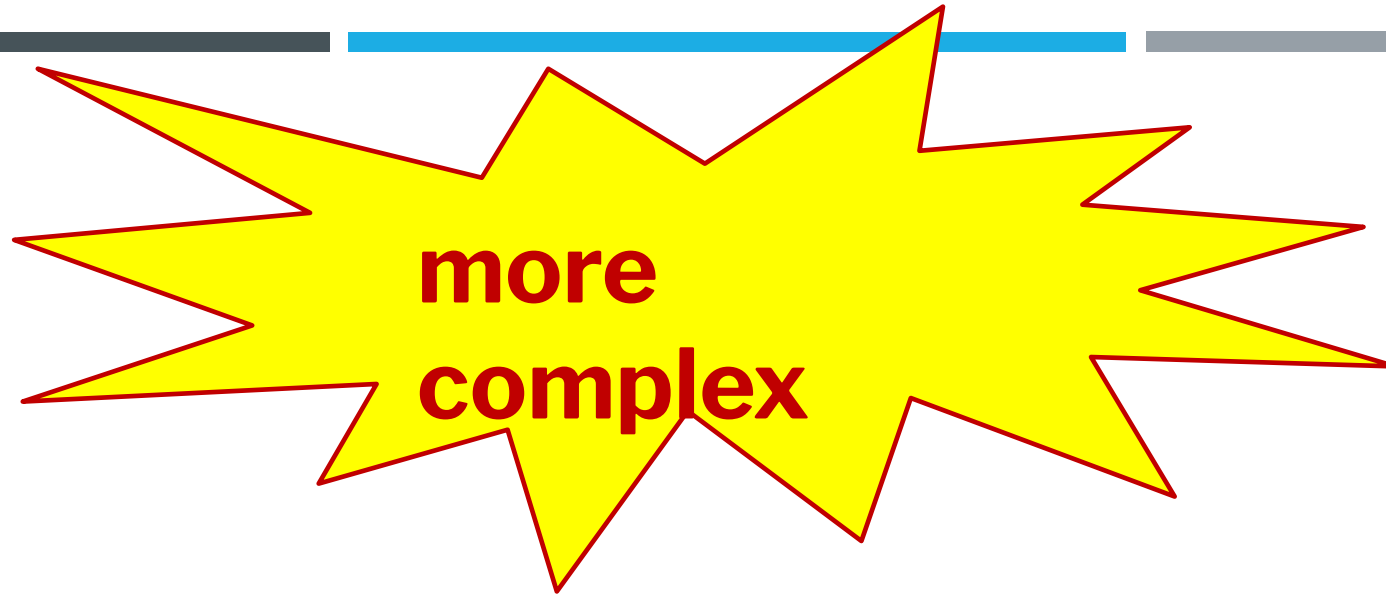
the promoter and regulatory regions of their target genes

## Estrogen sensitivity & ERE mediated activation of cells or genes

- the addition of estrogen  $\longrightarrow$  gene upregulation > 1000 estrogen sensitive genes
- identifying EREs in the promoter region of genes

ERE databases ----- available online

example : EBAG9, c-fos, OXT, F12, TFF1, LTF, CTSD, PFDN2, TGF- $\alpha$ , AGT, GREB1, KIAA1243, NRIP1, MADH9, NME3, TPD52L, and ABCG2



Estroge  
n



Estrogen  
receptor

**not** enough to predict the effect of estrogen in any cell type

# Estrogen and progesterone receptor status

## Estrogen receptor overexpression

- Breast cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Ovarian cancer

**ER $\alpha$**  : induce estrogen dependent proliferation

**ER**

**$\beta$**



## Altered estrogen and / or progesterone receptor expression

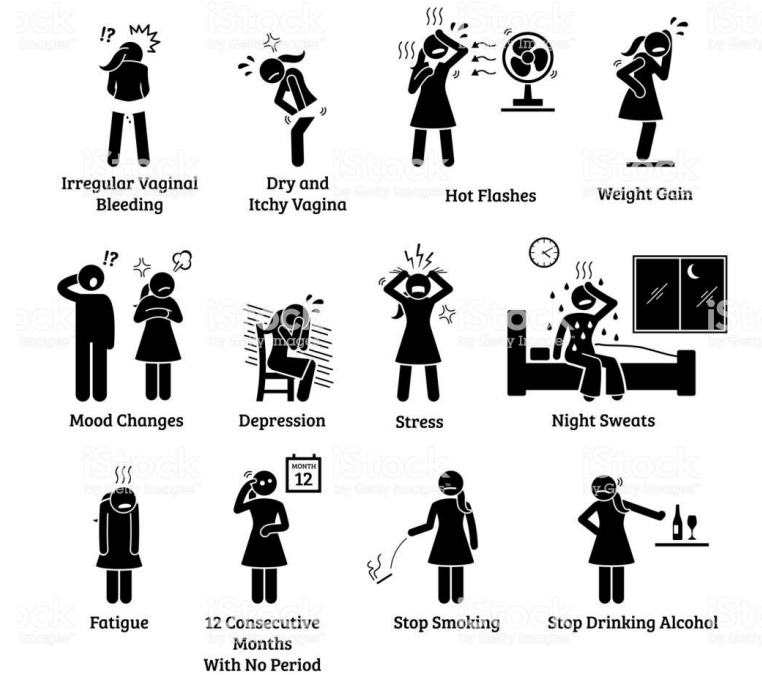
- thyroid cancer
- Hodgkin's lymphoma
- B-cell malignancies
- brain tumours
- prolactinoma
- melanoma
- lung cancer
- colorectal cancer
- gastric cancer
- liver cancer



---

# Determinants of Progesterone Effect on Tissues

## Menopause and Perimenopause



Estroge  
n

Progestogenic  
compounds

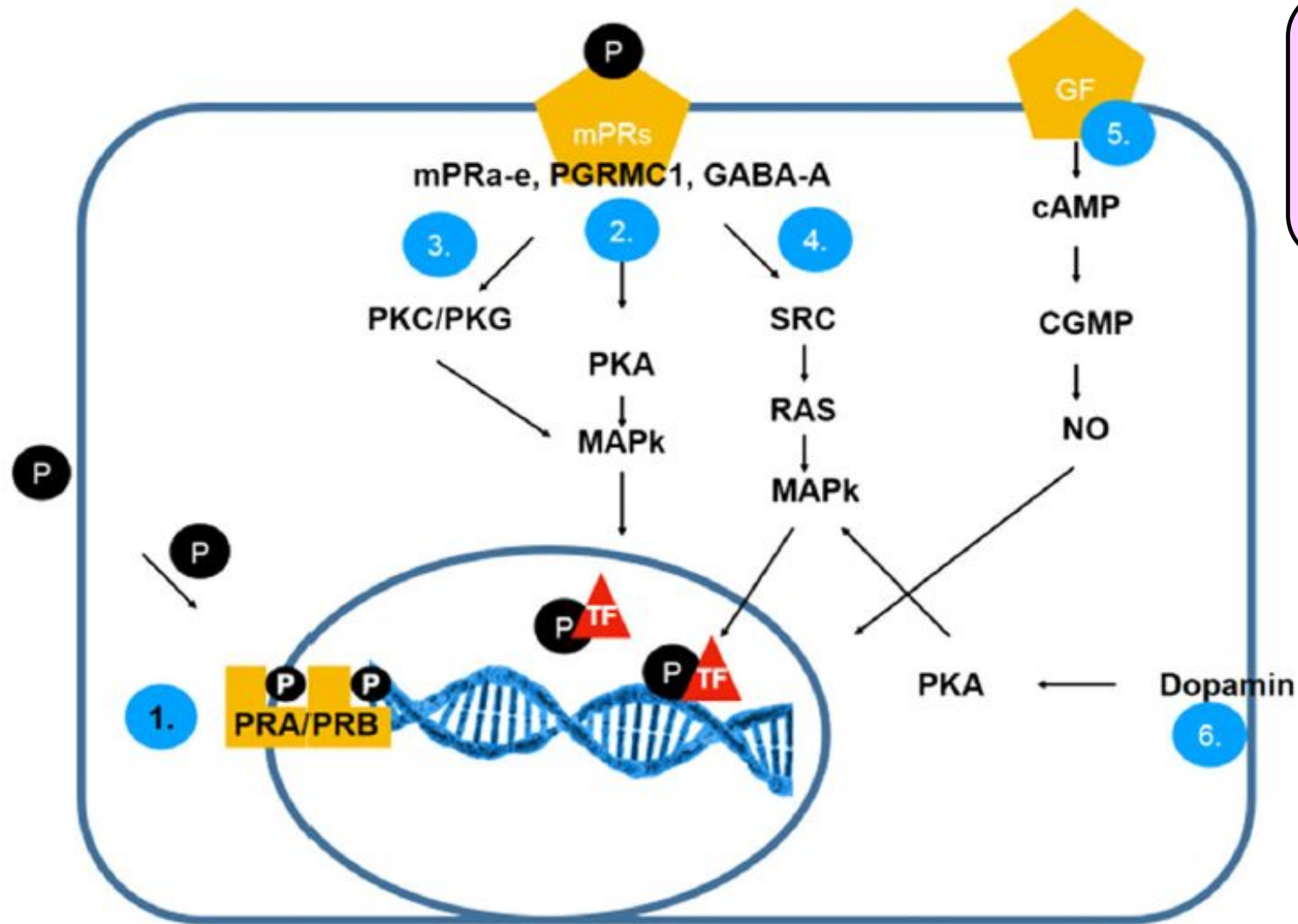
---

~~P~~rogeste progesterone-like effect  
(except for micronised  
progesterone)

Other steroid hormone receptors  
(androgen, mineralocorticoid,  
glucocorticoid)



prediction of E P HRT effect on tissues  
simply based on receptor expression and  
signalling is **nearly impossible**



**'Non-classical'**  
progesterone  
signalling

**'Classical'** progesterone  
signalling

**Table 1** The most common cancer types in childhood, young adults and females. American Cancer Society, 2015-2016 [43]

| Childhood cancer                          | Young adult cancer                  | Female cancer (new cases) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leukemia                                  | Breast cancer                       | Breast cancer             |
| Brain and spinal cord tumours             | Lymphoma<br>(Hodgkin / non-Hodgkin) | Lung cancer               |
| Neuroblastoma                             | Melanoma                            | Colorectal cancer         |
| Wilms tumour                              | Sarcoma                             | Uterine corpus            |
| Lymphoma (Hodgkin / non-Hodgkin)          | Female genital tract cancers        | Thyroid cancer            |
| Rhabdomyosarcoma                          | Thyroid cancer                      | Non-Hodgkin lymphoma      |
| Retinoblastoma                            | Testicular cancer                   | Melanoma                  |
| Bone cancer (osteosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma) | Colorectal cancer                   | Leukemia                  |
|   | Leukemia                            | Pancreatic cancer         |
|   | Brain and spinal cord tumours       | Kidney cancer             |

- Breast cancer
- Gynecologic cancers
- Other common non-gynecologic cancers



# **Breast Cancer**



antiestrogenic endocrine  
therapy

**No** hormone replacement  
therapy

## Nonhormonal methods

- lifestyle changes
- behavioral therapy
- Gabapentine
- venlafaxine or fluoxetine (SSRI)

## **HABITS** (Hormone Replacement Therapy After Breast Cancer – Is it Safe?)

the first large randomized, controlled trial (RCT)

2.1 years □ stopped in

**2003**

**increased** risk of breast cancer

recurrence

n=434

HRT group : recurrence 26 cases

non-HRT group : 7 cases

HR: 3.3

**HABITS (Hormonal Replacement Therapy After Breast Cancer--Is It Safe?), a Randomised Comparison: Trial Stopped**



Randomized Controlled Trial

➤ J Natl Cancer Inst. 2008 Apr 2;100(7):475-82.

doi: 10.1093/jnci/djn058. Epub 2008 Mar 25.

# Increased Risk of Recurrence After Hormone Replacement Therapy in Breast Cancer Survivors

Lars Holmberg <sup>1</sup>, Ole-Erik Iversen, Carl Magnus Rudenstam, Mats Hammar, Eero Kumpulainen, Janusz Jaskiewicz, Jacek Jassem, Daria Dobaczewska, Hans E Fjosne, Octavio Peralta, Rodrigo Arriagada, Marit Holmqvist, Johanna Maenpaa, HABITS Study Group

In the extended follow-up of HABITS :  
RR of recurrence of 2.4  
(n=442, mean HRT duration 24 months, follow-up **5 years**, recurrence **22.2%** HRT user vs. **8.0%** non-user)

# The Effects of Tibolone in Older Postmenopausal Women

Steven R. Cummings, M.D., Bruce Ettinger, M.D., Pierre D. Delmas, M.D., Ph.D., Peter Kenemans, M.D., Ph.D., Victoria Stathopoulos, Ph.D., Pierre Verweij, Ph.D., Mirjam Mol-Arts, M.D., Lenus Kloosterboer, Ph.D., Lori Mosca, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., Claus Christiansen, M.D., John Bilezikian, M.D., Eduardo Mario Kerzberg, M.D., et al., for the LIFT Trial Investigators\*

The LIFT (Long-Term Intervention on Fractures with Tibolone) study:

- Decrease fracture risk
- Reduces **invasive breast cancer** risk significantly (odds ratio 0.32)

**Tibolone**: a compound that is metabolized to an estrogenic, progestagenic and androgenic isomer

doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(08)70341-3. Epub 2009 Jan 23.

## Safety and Efficacy of **Tibolone** in Breast-Cancer Patients With Vasomotor Symptoms: A Double-Blind, Randomised, Non-Inferiority Trial

Peter Kenemans<sup>1</sup>, Nigel J Bundred, Jean-Michel Foidart, Ernst Kubista, Bo von Schoultz, Piero Sismondi, Rena Vassilopoulou-Sellin, Cheng Har Yip, Jan Egberts, Mirjam Mol-Arts, Roel Mulder, Steve van Os, Matthias W Beckmann, LIBERATE Study Group

The LIBERATE (Livial Intervention Following Breast Cancer: Efficacy, Recurrence and Tolerability Endpoints) Trial :

- Bone mineral density (BMD) and climacteric symptoms significantly improved,
- **increased** recurrence risk □ **prematurely terminated**
- (n=3098, follow-up 3.1 years, breast cancer recurrence **15.2%** with tibolone vs. **10.7%** with placebo, HR: 1.4)

HRT is **generally contraindicated** in breast cancer

**Tibolone**

**ER  
parallel endocrine  
oncotherapy**

**E  
R**

- ER negative (HR: 1.15) : no significant relative risk elevation

**parallel endocrine  
oncotherapy**

- aromatase inhibitor (HR: 2.42)
- GnRH analogue (HR: 2.29)
- SERM (tamoxifen) (HR: 1.25) : no significant relative risk elevation

> Med J Aust. 2002 Oct 7;177(7):347-51.

# Hormone Replacement Therapy After a Diagnosis of Breast Cancer: Cancer Recurrence and Mortality

Eva M Durna <sup>1</sup>, Barry G Wren, Gillian Z Heller, Leo R Leader, Peter Sjoblom, John A Eden

**Vaginal estrogen** user breast cancer survivors :

- 9.1% recurrence in vaginal estrogen users
- 29.5% in non-HRT users (RR: 0.18; 0.04-0.75)

---

During adjuvant **aromatase inhibitor**  
therapy

any form of local estrogen  
application



the serum estrogen level has to be kept strictly at  
zero



> [Menopause](#). Jul-Aug 2003;10(4):277-85. doi: 10.1097/01.GME.0000061806.76067.E9.

## Estrogen Replacement Therapy in Breast Cancer Survivors: A Matched-Controlled Series

David A Decker<sup>1</sup>, Jane E Pettinga, Nancy VanderVelde, Raywin R Huang, Larry Kestin, John H Burdakin

> [Am J Clin Oncol](#). 2000 Dec;23(6):541-5. doi: 10.1097/00000421-200012000-00001.

## Breast Cancer Survival and Hormone Replacement Therapy: A Cohort Analysis

P J DiSaia<sup>1</sup>, W R Brewster, A Ziogas, H Anton-Culver

### Duration of HRT

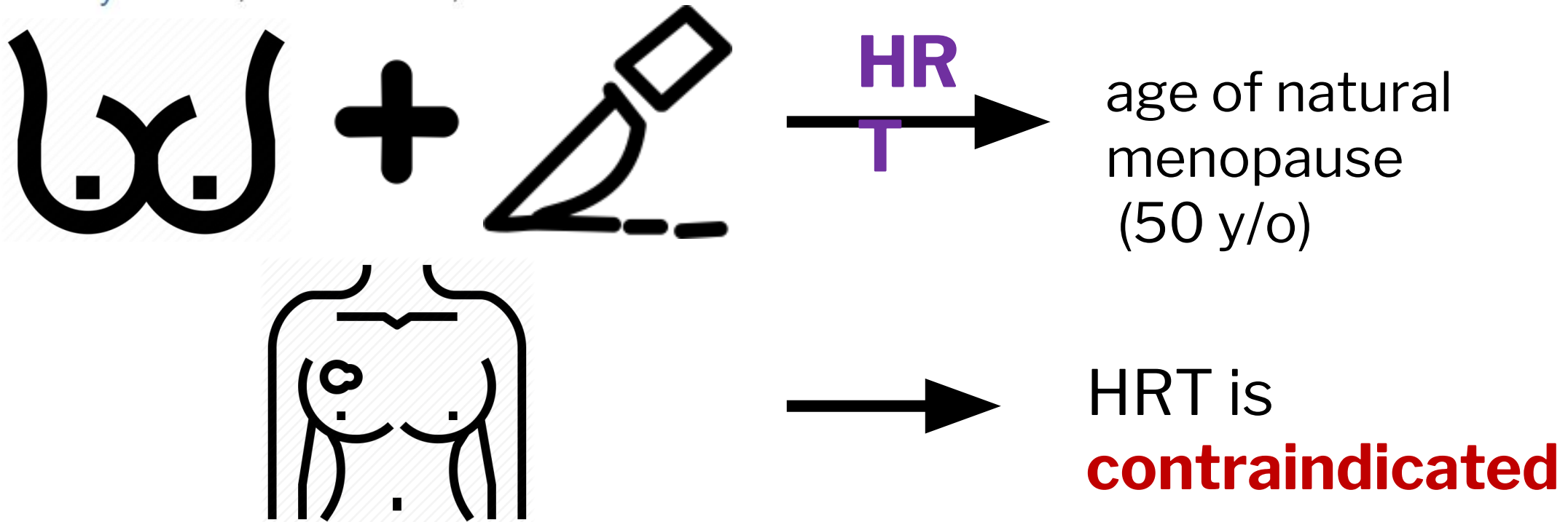
longer periods of MHT □ more  
recurrences □ **increased** mortality

24-42 months vs. 12-22 months

> Womens Health (Lond). 2012 Sep;8(5):543-55. doi: 10.2217/whe.12.41.

# BRCA Carriers, Prophylactic Salpingo-Oophorectomy and Menopause: Clinical Management Considerations and Recommendations

Amy Finch<sup>1</sup>, Gareth Evans, Steven A Narod

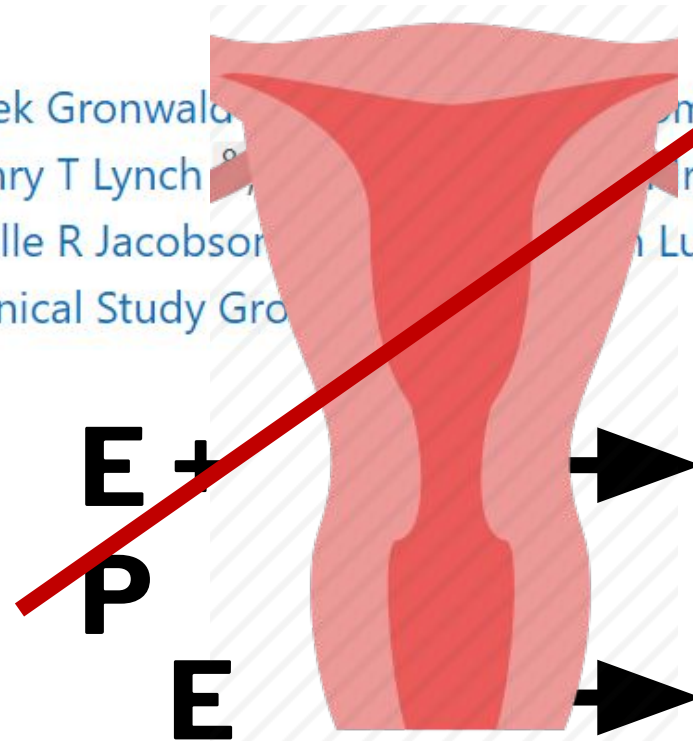
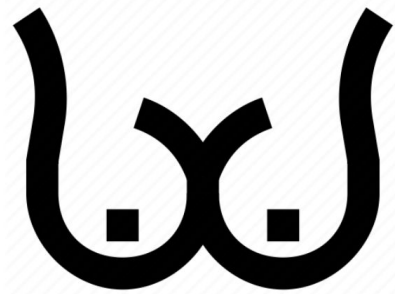




> JAMA Oncol. 2018 Aug 1;4(8):1059-1065. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2018.0211.

# Hormone Replacement Therapy After Oophorectomy and Breast Cancer Risk Among BRCA1 Mutation Carriers

Joanne Kotsopoulos<sup>1 2</sup>, Jacek Gronwald<sup>3</sup>, Tomasz Huzarski<sup>3</sup>, Nadine Tung<sup>5</sup>, Pal Moller<sup>6</sup>, Susan Armel<sup>7</sup>, Henry T Lynch<sup>8</sup>, Maria Eide<sup>9</sup>, Maria Eide<sup>10</sup>, Christian F Singer<sup>11</sup>, William D Foulkes<sup>12</sup>, Michelle R Jacobson<sup>13</sup>, Lubinski<sup>3</sup>, Steven A Narod<sup>1 2</sup>, Hereditary Breast Cancer Clinical Study Group



risk of breast cancer

risk **not** increase





# Ovarian Cancer

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Estrogen replacement therapy for ovarian carcinoma survivors: A randomized controlled trial.                    | Guidozzi F1, Daponte A (1999)   |
| Use of hormone replacement therapy before and after ovarian cancer diagnosis and ovarian cancer survival.       | Mascarenhas C1, Lambe M, Bellocco R, Bergfeldt K, Riman T, Persson I, Weiderpass E (2006) |
| Adjuvant hormone therapy for ovarian cancer: results of a randomized controlled trial.                          | P, Gore M, Mansi J, Williams C, Kitchener H, Harman D, Harper P, Bliss                    |
| Hormone therapy for ovarian cancer: meta-analysis.  | ouni E, Prodromidou A, Papanicolaou DN, Vlachos GD  |
| Hormone replacement therapy after invasive ovarian serous cystadenocarcinoma treatment: the effect on survival. | iltshaw E, Fryatt I, Ford JH, Harmer CL, et al. (1991)                                    |
| Reproductive factors and epithelial ovarian cancer survival in the EPIC cohort study.                           | Ursic-Vrscaj M, Bebar S, Zakelj MP (2001)   |
| Hormone therapy for ovarian cancer survivors: systematic review and meta-analysis                               | Bešević J, et al. (2015)  |
|   | Pergialiotis V, Pitsouni E, Prodromidou A, Fountzakis M, Perrea DN, Vlachos GD            |

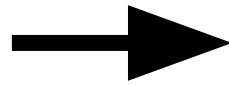
**EOC ----- HRT:**  
 (between 42 months to 19 years)

- does **not** increase recurrence of the malignant disease
- (in some studies, e.g. Mascharenas et al.) it **even increases the overall**

**survival**

# Endometrioid ovarian cancer

sensitive to  
estrogen



**avoidance** of  
HRT

## Menopausal hormone therapy in cancer survivors: A narrative review of the literature

Carol L. Kuhle, Ekta Kapoor, Richa Sood, Jacqueline M. Thielen, Aminah Jatoi, Stephanie S. Faubion

Preventive Medicine, Occupational, and Aerospace Medicine, Medical Oncology, General Internal Medicine

Research output: Contribution to journal > Review article

[Review](#) > [Maturitas](#). 2015 Nov;82(3):296-8. doi: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2015.07.006.

Epub 2015 Jul 22.

## Treatment of Climacteric Symptoms in Survivors of Gynaecological Cancer

Nicoletta Biglia <sup>1</sup>, Valentina Elisabetta Bounous <sup>2</sup>, Luca Giuseppe Sgro <sup>2</sup>, Marta D'Alonzo <sup>2</sup>, Martina Gallo <sup>2</sup>



**endometrial adenocarcinoma** survivors are candidates  
for HRT

# germ cell tumors

## Menopausal hormone therapy in cancer survivors: A narrative review of the literature

Carol L. Kuhle, Ekta Kapoor, Richa Sood, Jacqueline M. Thielen, Aminah Jatoi, Stephanie S. Faubion

Preventive Medicine, Occupational, and Aerospace Medicine, Medical Oncology, General Internal Medicine

*Research output: Contribution to journal > Review article*

**no** additional recurrence  
risk

## **granulosa cell tumor**

the most common sex-chord stromal ovarian  
tumour

hormonally – endocrinologically active  
character

It may be safer **not** to initiate HRT in these  
patients.

(no direct evidence)

[Review](#) > [Gynecol Oncol.](#) 2017 Aug;146(2):427-435. doi: 10.1016/j.ygyno.2017.06.013.

Epub 2017 Jun 16.

### **Management of Menopausal Symptoms in Women With Gynecologic Cancers**

[Marcela G Del Carmen](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Laurel W Rice](#)<sup>2</sup>

[Review](#) > [Maturitas.](#) 2010 Mar;65(3):190-7. doi: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2009.11.017.

Epub 2009 Dec 16.

### **Hormone Replacement After Gynaecological Cancer**

[Piksi Singh](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Martin K Oehler](#)





# **Endometrial Cancer**

Type I : estrogen  
sensitive  
increased recurrence rate after the initiation of  
HRT



Estrogen replacement therapy in the patient treated for endometrial cancer

Creasman WT, Henderson D.

- **Recurrence rate & disease free survival were not worse**

L

Estrogen replacement therapy in endometrial cancer patients. a matched control study

(1990)

Estrogen replacement therapy in endometrial cancer patients. a matched control study

- **In most cases : be even better in HRT groups**
- stage I and II
- Follow-up times : 42-87 months

K,  
ML

Estrogen replacement therapy in endometrial cancer patients. a matched control study

Sundano RA, McFarlane M, McLaren CE, Li KT, Re A, DiSaia PJ (2001)

Does immediate hormone replacement therapy affect the oncologic

Ayhan A, Taskiran C, Simsek S,



Review

> [Eur J Cancer](#). 2014 Jun;50(9):1628-37. doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2014.03.006.

Epub 2014 Mar 28.

# Effects of Hormone Replacement Therapy on the Rate of Recurrence in Endometrial Cancer Survivors: A Meta-Analysis

Seung-Hyuk Shim<sup>1</sup>, Sun Joo Lee<sup>1</sup>, Soo-Nyung Kim<sup>2</sup>

**E + P**: had a **protective effect** against cancer recurrence  
(OR: 0.23; 95% CI 0.08-0.66)

**E**: did not show this effect (OR: 0.35; 95% CI 0.06-2.10)



- **When to start HRT ?**

- **Duration ?**

HRT was initiated after between **1 to 60 months** of disease free survival (after surgery).

Most cases :after surgery --- between **3-12**

**months**

type

II

No specific studies

**not** sensitive to estrogen

☐ it is logical to think that HRT use is not more dangerous



---

# Uterine Sarcoma

- Leiomyosarcomas
- Carcinosarcomas
- Adenosarcomas
- Endometrial stroma sarcomas

# Endometrial stroma

overexpress estrogen and progesteron

> Gynecol Oncol. 2006 Jun;101(3):464-9. doi: 10.1016/j.ygyno.2005.11.010. Epub 2005 Dec 20.

## Harm or Benefit of Hormonal Treatment in Metastatic Low-Grade Endometrial Stromal Sarcoma: Single Center Experience With 10 Cases and Review of the Literature

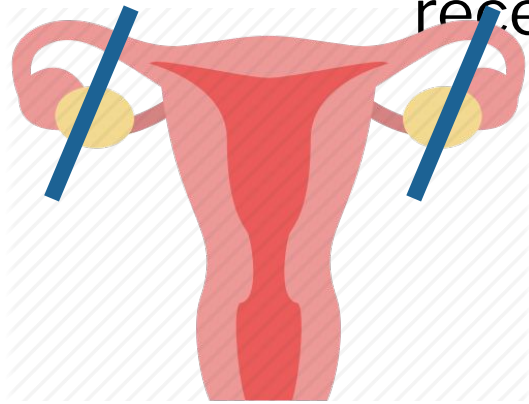
Daniel Pink <sup>1</sup>, Tanja Lindner, Alicia Mrozek, Albrecht Kretzschmar, Peter C Thuss-Patience, Bernd Dörken, Peter Reichardt

estrogen HRT : adverse  
effect



**Avoid**

**HRT**



often overexpress estrogen and progesteron  
receptors **as**



not improve the 5-year overall  
survival

*Kapp DS, Shin JY, Chan JK (2008) Prognostic factors and survival in 1396 patients with uterine leiomyosarcomas: emphasis on impact of lymphadenectomy and oophorectomy. Cancer 112(4): 820–830*

REVIEWS

## Estrogen therapy in gynecological cancer survivors

F. Guidozzi 

Pages 611-617 | Received 06 Feb 2013, Accepted 14 May 2013, Published online: 16 Aug 2013

**V**

not hormone sensitive and HRT may be  
given

Review > *Gynecol Oncol.* 2017 Aug;146(2):427-435. doi: 10.1016/j.ygyno.2017.06.013.

Epub 2017 Jun 16.

## Management of Menopausal Symptoms in Women With Gynecologic Cancers

Marcela G Del Carmen <sup>1</sup>, Laurel W Rice <sup>2</sup>

**X**

lack of direct data to support or refute its  
safety

Review

> Climacteric. 2013 Dec;16(6):611-7. doi: 10.3109/13697137.2013.806471.

Epub 2013 Aug 16.

# Estrogen Therapy in Gynecological Cancer Survivors

F Guidozi<sup>1</sup>

**Carcinosarcomas &  
Adenosarcomas**



HRT can be  
used



# Cervical Cancer

squamous cell  
carcinoma

80-90% of cervical  
cancer  
**not** estrogen  
dependent

Clinical Trial

> Gynecol Oncol. 1987 Feb;26(2):169-77. doi: 10.1016/0090-8258(87)90270-8.

## Hormonal Replacement Therapy in Patients After Cervical Cancer Treatment

E Ploch

Both E or E + P :  
advantageous

|                              | HRT group  | Control group |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Recurrence rate              | <b>20%</b> | 32%           |
| 5-year overall survival rate | <b>80%</b> | 65%           |



Cervical  
adenocarcinoma

10-20% of cervical  
cancer  
its biological behavior resembles **endometrial  
cancer**



HRT and probably it is beneficial to chose a combined **E+P**  
regimen

Treated cervical cancer is **not** a contraindication for  
HRT

---

# **Vaginal and Vulvar Cancer**

Most : squamous cell  
carcinomas

behave similarly to squamous cell cervical  
cancer



MHT is not  
contraindicated

Vaginal (clear-cell)  
adenocarcinoma

diethylstilbestrol

vulvar  
adenocarcinoma

can develop from Bartholin's  
glands

**HRT**

**?**

---

# Haematologic Malignancies

- acute and chronic lymphoid leukaemia
- acute and chronic myeloid leukaemia
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- myeloma multiplex

haemopoietic  
cells

**beneficial** effect of  
estrogen

- **Pregnancy** : against the development of **Hodgkin lymphoma**
- **former HRT** : decreases the risk of **B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas**
- **Estrogen** : improves the disease-free and overall survival in **diffuse large-cell lymphomas**

haemopoietic  
cells

**beneficial** effect of  
estrogen

- **Pregnancy** : against the development of **Hodgkin lymphoma**
- **former HRT** : decreases the risk of **B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas**
- **Estrogen** influences the proliferation, differentiation and survival of B-lineage precursors and by decreasing local IL-6 production,
  - improves the disease-free and overall survival in **diffuse large-cell lymphomas**

Observational Study > Climacteric. 2017 Jun;20(3):268-273.

doi: 10.1080/13697137.2017.1309382. Epub 2017 Apr 11.

# Hormone Therapy for Premature Ovarian Insufficiency Patients With Malignant Hematologic Diseases

X Yang<sup>1</sup>, C Wang<sup>1</sup>, X He<sup>2</sup>, J Wei<sup>2</sup>, Y Wang<sup>3</sup>, X Li<sup>2</sup>, L-P Xu<sup>4</sup>

- No increase in the recurrence of the disease or excess mortality
- Significant alleviation of menopausal symptoms



Neutral effect of HRT on malignant haematologic diseases



# Brain Tumors



## meningioma

a

- more common in women than in men
- grow faster in the **luteal phase** of the cycle & **pregnancy**
- the role of **progesterone effect**.
  - 58-83% express progesterone receptor
  - 0-8 % expressing estrogen receptor

Review

> Int J Cancer. 2015 May 15;136(10):2369-77. doi: 10.1002/ijc.29274. Epub 2014 Nov 12.

### Menopausal Hormone Therapy and Central Nervous System Tumor Risk: Large UK Prospective Study and Meta-Analysis

Victoria S Benson <sup>1</sup>, Oksana Kirichek, Valerie Beral, Jane Green

na by 30-80 %

Estrogen-only HRT increased the risk of brain tumors, glioma and meningioma

> J Neurooncol. 2018 Jan;136(2):327-333. doi: 10.1007/s11060-017-2656-9. Epub 2017 Oct 28.

# Progesterone-only Contraception Is Associated With a Shorter Progression-Free Survival in Premenopausal Women With WHO Grade I Meningioma

Tessa A Harland<sup>1</sup>, Jacob L Freeman<sup>1</sup>, Monica Davern<sup>1</sup>, D Jay McCracken<sup>2</sup>, Emma C Celano<sup>3</sup>, Kevin Lillehei<sup>1</sup>, Jeffrey J Olson<sup>2</sup>, D Ryan Ormond<sup>4</sup>

## WHO Grade I meningioma

- progesterone-only contraception
  - shorter progression-free survival in premenopausal women

meningioma

a

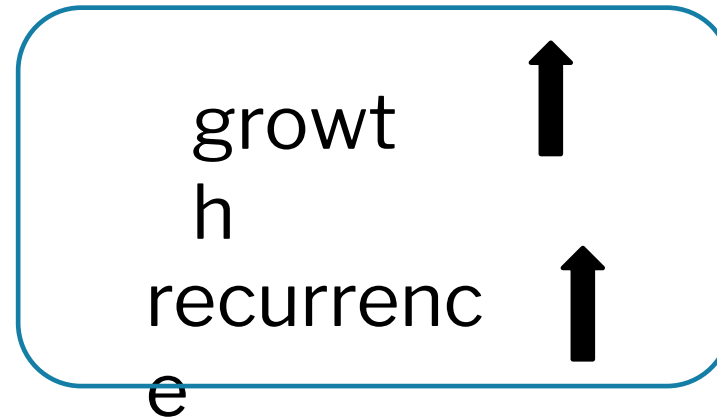
glioma

a

**HRT**

**E**

**P**



HRT should be avoided

# Prolactino

ma

**Estrogen** inhibited dopaminergic system □ prolactin ↑

**micro**prolactino

ma

**macro**adeno

ma

- pregnancy
- low-dose (<30 ug) ethynil estradiol contraceptive



growth rare (1-2%)



30-40% grow during pregnancy

- **Micro**prolactinoma should therefore **not** be considered a contraindication for HRT
- **Macro**prolactinoma : very close monitoring

# Prolactino

ma

**Estrogen** inhibited dopaminergic system □ prolactin

hyperprolactine  
mia

?????

**micro**prolactino

ma

**macro**adeno

ma

- pregnancy
- low-dose (<30 ug) ethynil estradiol contraceptive



growth rare (1-2%)



30-40% grow during pregnancy

- **Micro**prolactinoma should therefore **not** be considered a contraindication for HRT
- **Macro**prolactinoma : very close monitoring



# **Malignant Melanoma**

controversi  
al

estrogen receptor- $\beta$   
(ER $\beta$ )

ER $\alpha$  : proliferative and tumor promoting effect

Er $\beta$  : antitumor effect----- inhibition of the PI3K/Akt pathway

**ER $\beta$**  expression  $\square$  better prognosis

Decreased ER $\beta$  expression  $\square$  poorer prognosis and the metastatic state



use of **estrogen** or **ER $\beta$  agonists** in the treatment of melanoma

**ER $\beta$ -rich tumors** : estrogen supplementation might even be advantageous

**advanced, metastatic cases** : the safety is unclear



# Lung Cancer



estrogen-depend

## Non-small cell lung cancer :

**ER $\beta$**  --- tumor promoter

via interactions with receptor splice variants, EGFR receptor signalling and G-protein coupled estrogen receptors

application of **antiestrogenic agents** and **aromatase inhibitors** in the treatment of lung cancer



MHT should **not** be used in lung cancer patients



# Colorectal Cancer

## protective effect of female hormones

- Less severe forms in women than in men
- Estrogen **decreases** the incidence of colorectal cancer and decreases the progression of the disease
- **ER $\beta$**  : anti-tumor effect  
positive prognostic marker



MHT has a positive effect on colorectal  
cancer



# Kidney Cancer

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Reproductive factors and kidney cancer risk in 2 US cohort studies, 1993-2010.  | Karami S, et al. (2013)                   |
| Reproductive, menstrual, and other hormone-related factors and risk of renal cell cancer.                                       | Zucchetto A, et al. (2008)                |
| Reproductive factors and risk of renal cell cancer: the Nurses' Health Study.   | Lee JE, Hankinson SE, Cho E (2009)        |
| Reproductive characteristics and risk of kidney cancer: Iowa Women's.   | Molokwu JC, Prizment AE, Folsom AR (2007) |
| Risk factors for kidney cancer in New South Wales, Australia. II. Urologic disease, hypertension, obesity, and hormonal factors | McCredie M, Stewart JH (1992)             |


**no** relation between MHT and kidney cancer



Survivors of kidney cancer can be offered HRT



# Gastric Cancer




ER positivity ---- poor  
outcome

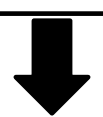
Postoperative survival rates :

- **ER+** vs. ER- cases : 15 % vs. 62%

Matsui M, Kojima O, Kawakami S, Uehara Y, Takahashi T(1992)

The prognosis of patients with gastric cancer possessing sex hormone receptors. Surg Today 22(5):421-425

- ER $\alpha$  and ER $\beta$  isoforms : prognostic markers
  - ER $\alpha$ 66 : poorly differentiated gastric cancer
  - ER $\alpha$ 36 : more often in lymph node metastases
  - ER $\beta$ 1 : associated with low grade tumors
- Androgen receptor : poor prognosis & progress free survival 



MHT to gastric cancer survivors should be  
**avoided**

(especially in ER+ or PR+)



# Liver Cancer



Estrogen ----- antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effect

preventing **fibrosis** as a key step towards **liver carcinogenesis**

Estrogen ----- inhibit the progression of **HBV** infection

inhibiting hepatocellular carcinoma

HR  
T



**decreased** incidence of hepatocellular cancer & better overall survival rate



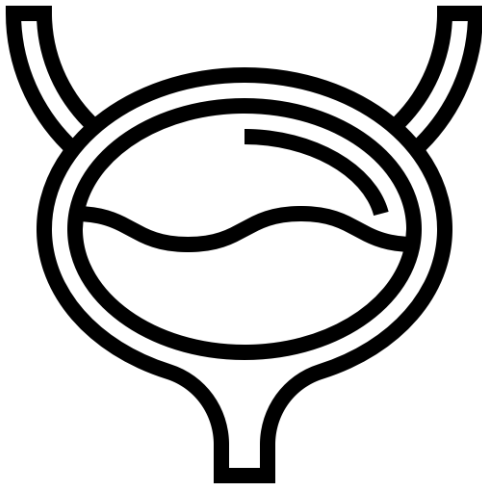
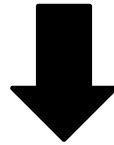
# Bladder Cancer

should be considered an **estrogen sensitive** tumor

- More aggressive in women than in males
- **Tamoxifen** in bladder cancer seems to be effective
- Former use of MHT was reported to **double the risk** of bladder cancer

Fernandez E, Gallus S, Bosetti C, Franceschi S, Negri E, La Vecchia C (2003) Hormone replacement therapy and cancer risk:

a systematic analysis from a network of case-control studies. Int J Cancer 105(3):408–412



MHT should **not** be prescribed  
(no direct clinical evidence is  
available)



# Thyroid Cancer

- More common in women than in men
- **No** strong evidence of relation between MHT & thyroid cancer
- ER + or PR + ===== thyroid cancer : positive and negative associations

Survivors : thyroxine ----- subclinical  
hyperthyroidism

□ suppress TSH □ decrease recurrence risk



**V**

Thyroid cancer should **not** be considered a contraindication to MHT

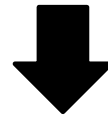


# Pancreatic Cancer

# Relationship Between Female Hormonal and Menstrual Factors and Pancreatic Cancer: A Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies

Bo Tang<sup>1</sup>, Jiannan Lv, Yang Li, Shengguang Yuan, Zhenran Wang, Songqing He

The risk of pancreatic cancer is **not** associated with exogenous hormone use (oral contraceptives or MHT) or menstrual factors (age at menarche, age at menopause, hysterectomy or oophorectomy).



**V**

Pancreatic cancer should **not** be considered a contraindication to MHT

European Menopause and Andropause Society (EMAS) and International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) position statement on managing the menopause after gynecological cancer focus on menopausal symptoms and osteoporosis

Margaret Rees<sup>a,\*</sup>, Roberto Angioli<sup>b</sup>, Robert L. Coleman<sup>c</sup>, Rosalind Glasspool<sup>d</sup>, Francesco Plotti<sup>b</sup>, Tommaso Simoncini<sup>e</sup>, Corrado Terranova<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK

<sup>b</sup> Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome, Italy

<sup>c</sup> MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA

<sup>d</sup> The Beatson West of Scotland, Cancer Centre, Glasgow, UK

<sup>e</sup> Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Pisa, Italy



---

**low-grade, early-stage** endometrial cancer : systemic or topical estrogens

**more advanced disease** : non-hormonal approaches

**Uterine sarcomas** : may be hormone dependent  
estrogen and progesterone receptor testing

☐ to guide decisions  
**nonserous epithelial ovarian cancer** and **germ cell tumors** :  
not appear to be associated with harm and does not decrease overall or disease-free survival

**serous and granulosa cell tumors** : hormone dependence  
☐ non-hormonal options

**cervical, vaginal or vulvar cancer** :  
no evidence to contraindicate the use of systemic or topical menopausal hormone



**Surgically** induced menopause often leads to the immediate onset of vasomotor symptoms: **more severe** than after natural menopause.

- Age
- tumor type and stage
- the use of anti-estrogen therapies (hormone dependent)
- concomitant morbidities

- Ex: women who are taking **aromatase inhibitors**, estrogen-based therapies are **contraindicated**
- vasomotor symptoms : **selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors** and **serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors**

## **Vulvovaginal atrophy :**

- lubricants and bioadhesive moisturizers
- Laser therapy for vulvovaginal atrophy : larger, long-term studies are required

## **Osteoporosis :**

- Bisphosphonates
- Calcium and vitamin

D

Strategies need to be **holistic** and include maintaining a healthy weight, diet, exercise and lifestyle.



# Endometrial Cancer

**Low-grade, early-stage** endometrial cancer : systemic or topical estrogens

**More advanced disease** : non-hormonal approaches  
If **adjuvant treatment** is carried out, there should be a **6-12-month** waiting period before starting menopausal hormone therapy

Women with **Lynch syndrome** :  
no long-term data regarding the safety of menopausal hormone therapy

**Atypical endometrial hyperplasia** ☐ Hysterectomy  
☐ consider menopausal hormone therapy is reasonable (paucity of data)



# Uterine sarcoma

**Uterine sarcomas** : may be **hormone dependent**



Estrogen and progesterone **receptor testing**

□ to guide decisions

**No** clinical trial data are available to inform practice in women whose tumors are **steroid receptor negative** or who have smooth muscle tumors of **uncertain malignant potential**.



# Ovarian Cancer



V

**Nonserous epithelial ovarian cancer and germ cell tumors**

:

not appear to be associated with harm and does not decrease overall or disease-free survival

X

**Serous and granulosa cell tumors** : hormone dependence

□ non-hormonal options

**Borderline malignant tumors** : paucity of data

with completely resected disease (**without invasive implants**)

□ reasonable to consider HRT

---

# **Cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancers**

## **V Cervical, vaginal or vulvar cancer :**

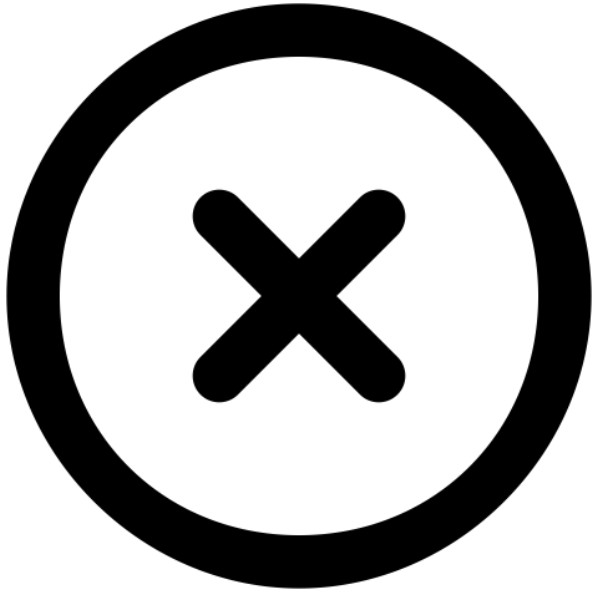
no evidence to contraindicate the use of systemic or topical menopausal hormone

In women who have been treated with **radiotherapy**, rather than hysterectomy, for cervical cancer : **E + P**



advantageo  
us

- Endometrial cancer type I
- Cervical adenocarcinoma
- Haematologic malignancies
- Local cutaneous malignant melanoma
- Colorectal cancer
- Hepatocellular cancer



contraindicat  
ed

- Breast cancer
- Endometrial stroma sarcoma
- Meningioma
- Glioma
- Hormone receptor positive gastric cancer
- Hormone receptor positive bladder cancer

---

- Individualized approach

- age, tumor type and stage, and concomitant therapies and morbidities

- Multidisciplinary team of health and allied health professionals

- Need for randomized trials and analysis of data registries to provide a stronger evidence base to inform practice

---

*Thanks for your attention.*