

Hormone replacement therapy may potentially – at least in some women – increase the risk of breast cancer. Re: HRT: doctors demand talks with government to tackle “chaos” of shortages

Despite the lack of benefit and in the face of studies, which have shown that hormone replacement (HRT) in both men and women may produce adverse cardiovascular and oncologic health effects [1-5], clinicians continue to argue for the use of hormone replacement therapy.

There is some argument to be made for doing so when the loss of natural synthesis of hormones is the result of surgical removal of ovarian or testicular tissue – however, there is no scientific basis to support the use of synthetic or naturally occurring hormone replacement in the presence of the natural aging process.

In deed, the ability to provide a prescription or homeopathic equivalent to what is no longer being produced by the body does not mean there is a biologic advantage for doing so. The health consequences – benefits versus risks – should be considered.

In the face of shortages of a drug, the question needs to be asked – Do all the people who are being prescribed HRT truly benefit from or need HRT or are we simply prescribing it because we can? Those who make the argument that statin medications are being over prescribed should be asking the question – is HRT being over prescribed and is it this potential over prescription that is causing the shortage.

References:

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