



Women's Hormone Center of Northern Virginia, PC.

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If estrogen replacement is not the cause of breast cancer, what is?

Facts about breast cancer and estrogen:

1. Only 4% of American women die from breast cancer.
2. To put things in perspective, about 44% of American women die from cardiovascular disease and 5% of American women die from osteoporotic fractures. Data show that hormone replacement reduces both of those conditions.
3. Most breast cancer patients don't die from breast cancer, instead they die from something else like heart disease.
3. Breast cancer mortality is much more common in the (more polluted) northeastern area of the United States compared to the south and west. But the use of hormone replacement is more evenly distributed throughout the country. This suggests that breast cancer may be associated with certain environmental factors, perhaps dioxin released from paper mills or carcinogens released from chemical and drug plants, many of which are located in the Northeast. See The Breast Cancer Prevention Partners web site www.bcpc.org for more info about this.
4. One pregnancy exposes a woman to the equivalent of 99 years of hormone replacement therapy, yet pregnancy is associated with a decreased risk of breast cancer.
5. Birth control pills are about 6 times more potent than hormone replacement therapy and despite millions of woman years of data on birth control pills fails to show an association of birth control pill use and breast cancer.
6. Data show that women who choose to continue use of HRT after being treated for breast cancer have a significantly lower risk of dying than those who take their oncologist's standard advice and stop their HRT. They also have a slight but not significant decreased risk of recurrence, contrary to popular belief.

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