



Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy

Competent Compounding

116 N Lafayette, Suite B
South Lyon, MI 48178

Phone: (248) 446-2643
Toll Free: (886) 446-2643
Fax: (248) 486-1906
www.specialty-medicine.com
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00-12:30
and 1:15-5:30

April 2005 Roberto Iaderosa, PharmD (cand)

Bioidentical Hormone Replacement Therapy and Breast Cancer

Perimenopause is a phase in the female aging process characterized by decreased ovarian function and serum estrogen concentrations. It is often accompanied by a host of symptoms, including hot flashes, night sweats, insomnia, nausea, inability to concentrate, and depression.

It is well established that replacing the low levels of estrogen by outside supplementation—or estrogen replacement therapy—can alleviate these symptoms; however, in patients with breast cancer or a strong family history of breast cancer, supplementation with drugs such as Prempro® and Premphase® is often not an option due to the hormonal sensitivity of the tumor. In fact, even in patients without risk factors, a major study

from 2002 found that women taking Prempro® had a 26% higher risk of developing breast cancer than those taking placebo.[1]

Types of Estrogen

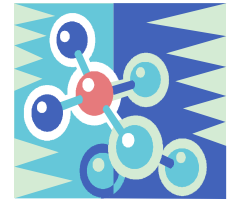
Although mainstream media frequently report on “estrogen” and its effects, a point that is often missed is that estrogens found in medications are synthetic and not exactly the same as the estrogens in your body. As a result, they also don’t behave the same way estrogens in your body behave and may have unwanted side effects.

In actuality, there are three major types of estrogen produced by the human body: estradiol, estrone, and estriol. Compounding pharmacists have longed believed that

replacing what the body has lost with these natural estrogens makes more sense than using a synthetic “look-alike” drug.

Estriol and Breast Cancer

Hormone replacement with natural estrogens is a good, safe option for perimenopausal women. In women with breast cancer, estradiol and estrone should still be avoided; however, the use of estriol alone has been reported to provide symptomatic relief [2], and improve bone mineral density.[3] In one study of postmenopausal women, patients taking estriol alone had significant and rapid decreases in hot flashes, night sweats, and insomnia—without a stimulatory effect on breast tissue.[4] Another study in



animals found that estriol actually prevents carcinogen-induced mammary tumors[5]. For more information on natural hormone replacement therapy, contact your local compounding pharmacist.

[1] *Jama*.2002;288:321
[2] *Serono Symposium, The Menopause: Clinical, Endocrinological and Pathophysiological Aspects* 39 Academic Press, London. 1982: 523–533.
[3] *Obstet. Gynaecol. Res.* 22 1996: 259–265
[4] *Maturitas*. 2000. 34:169-177.
[5] *Acta Endocrinol. (Copenh.)* 223. 1980: S17–S27.

Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy

The demands of modern compounding have led to the creation of pharmacies devoted solely to this art. **Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy** has been serving your community for over 5 years. Here we specialize in bio-identical

hormone replacement therapies and veterinary medicine, to name a few. We have all the facilities and equipment needed to make anything from topicals to capsules and sterile injectables. We do not accept insurance, but do provide claims

forms with prescriptions we fill. So, next time a patient wants a compounding you’re unsure of - we’d be happy to serve them!



Recommended Reading on BHRT

- The Miracle of Natural Hormones 3rd edition
Author: David Brownstein, MD
- HRT: The Answer
Author: Pam Smith, MD