

New Options and Controversies for "Women's Problems": 51st Annual McGill Course In Drug Therapy

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Objectives:

- ▶ 1. Evolving trends in contraception
- ▶ 2. New treatment options for benign gynecological conditions
- ▶ 3. New treatment paradigm for menopause

Contraception in Canada

Canadian Contraceptive Landscape

15% never use
contraception¹

20% have difficulties
with contraceptive
adherence¹

40% of all
pregnancies in
Canada are
unintended²

1. Black A et al. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2009;31:627-40; 2. Black AY et al. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2015;37:1086-97.

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LARCs: Long-acting Reversible Contraceptives

Canadian Contraceptive Landscape

What are LARCs?

- Reversible contraceptives that require administration less than once per year¹
- Include subdermal hormonal implants and intrauterine contraceptives (copper or levonorgestrel IUCs)¹

IUC, intrauterine contraceptive; LARC, long-acting reversible contraceptives
1. Hauck B, Costescu D. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2015; 37:606-16.

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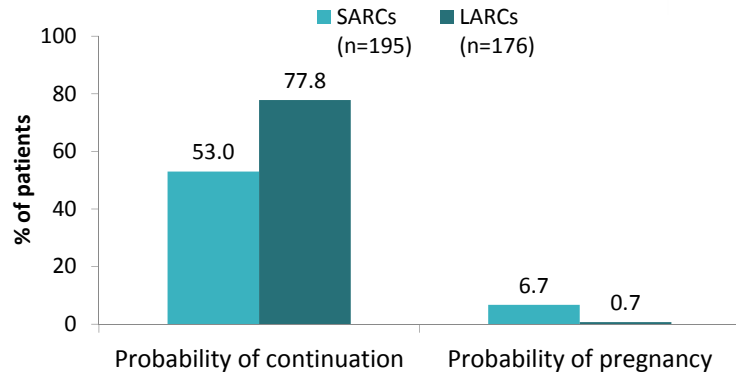
LARCs Compared with Short-acting Contraceptives

Canadian Contraceptive Landscape

Randomized study of US women (18 to 29 years) at 12 months of contraceptive use^{2*}

KEY TAKEAWAY

LARCs result in fewer unintended pregnancies and are more likely to be continued than short-acting options

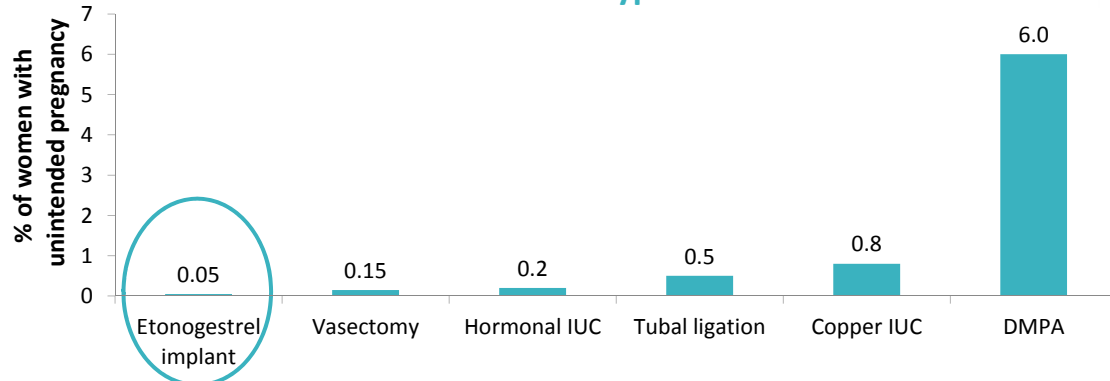


SARCs included oral contraceptives and depot medroxyprogesterone acetate; LARCs included intrauterine contraceptives and implants
 ARC, long-acting reversible contraceptives; SARC, short-acting reversible contraceptives
 Hubacher D et al. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2017;216:101-9.

Comparative Effectiveness of Long-Term Contraceptives

Mechanism of Action, Pharmacokinetics, and Efficacy

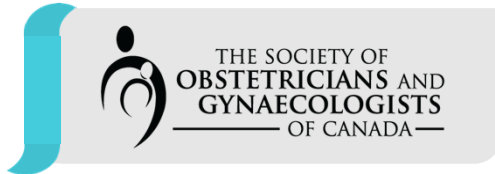
Percentage of Women with Unintended Pregnancy Within the First Year of Typical Use



DMPA, depot medroxyprogesterone acetate; IUC, intrauterine contraceptive
 Black AY et al. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2015;37:936-42.

Canadian Position Statements on LARCs

Canadian Contraceptive Landscape



Canadian Contraception Consensus

“LARCs are the **most effective method of reversible contraception**, have high continuation rates, and should be considered when presenting contraceptive options to any woman of reproductive age.”¹

LARCs, long-acting reversible contraceptives
Black A et al. *J Obstet Gynaecol Can* 2015;37:936-42; 2. Di Meglio G et al. *Paediatr Child Health* 2018;23:271-7.



Contraceptive care for Canadian Youth

“This statement recommends using **LARCs as first-line contraception for Canadian youth**....[These methods] have the lowest failure rate and are first-tier options.”²



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Etonogestrel Subdermal Implant: What Is It?

Mechanism of Action, Pharmacokinetics, and Efficacy

- Subdermal, single rod
 - 4 cm long, 2 mm wide
- Effective for up to 3 years
- Progestin-only implant preloaded in a sterile disposable applicator
 - Etonogestrel is the active metabolite of desogestrel, a progestin used in oral contraceptives
- Radiopaque
 - Can be localized by X-ray, computer tomography, ultrasound, or magnetic resonance imaging



Nexplanon (etonogestrel extended release subdermal implant) product monograph. Kirkland, QC: Merck Canada Inc; 2020; Rowlands S, Searle S. *Open Access Journal of Contraception* 2014;5:73-84.

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Etonogestrel Subdermal Implant: Components

Components and Insertion Site

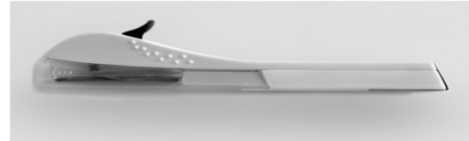
Implant

Core:

- EVA flexible copolymer (non-latex, BPA free)
- Barium sulfate (15 mg)
- Magnesium stearate (0.1 mg)

Rate-controlling membrane (implant skin): 100% EVA

Applicator



- Preloaded, sterile applicator
- Single use and disposable

BPA, bisphenol A; EVA, ethylene vinyl acetate
Nexplanon (etonogestrel extended release subdermal implant) product monograph. Kirkland, QC: Merck Canada Inc; 2020.

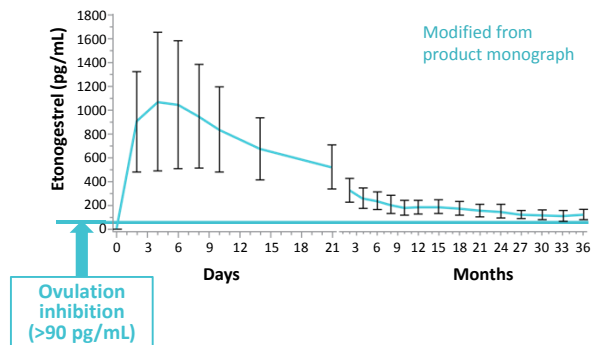
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Pharmacokinetics Over Time

Mechanism of Action, Pharmacokinetics, and Efficacy

- After reaching peak levels, etonogestrel levels decrease **gradually** over time¹
- After **implant removal**, etonogestrel levels drop **rapidly**
 - Undetectable levels within 1 week¹
 - Pregnancies have occurred as soon as 7 to 14 days after removal¹
 - **Ovulation resumes within 2 to 4 weeks for most women²**
- Women should re-start contraception immediately after implant removal if they do not wish to become pregnant¹

Etonogestrel Serum Concentrations* Over Time After Implant Insertion¹



Mean levels in pg/mL; bars show standard deviation

1. Nexplanon (etonogestrel extended release subdermal implant) product monograph. Kirkland, QC: Merck Canada Inc; 2020. 2. Palomba S et al. *Gynecol Endocrinol* 2012;28:710-21.

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Bleeding Patterns Overview

Key Counselling Topics: Bleeding, Dysmenorrhea, and Weight Gain

- Women using hormonal contraceptives may experience changes in bleeding

Etonogestrel subdermal implant bleeding patterns during the first 2 years of use*

Bleeding pattern	Definition	% of 90-day intervals with this pattern
Amenorrhea	No bleeding or spotting	22.2%
Infrequent	<3 bleeding/spotting episodes in 90 days (excluding amenorrhea)	33.6%
Frequent	More than 5 bleeding/spotting episodes	6.7%
Prolonged	Any bleeding/spotting episode > 14 days	17.7%

Over half of women have no bleeding or infrequent bleeding

*Based on 3315 recording periods of 90 days duration in 780 women, excluding the first 90 days after implant insertion Nexplanon (etonogestrel extended release subdermal implant) product monograph. Kirkland, QC: Merck Canada Inc; 2020.

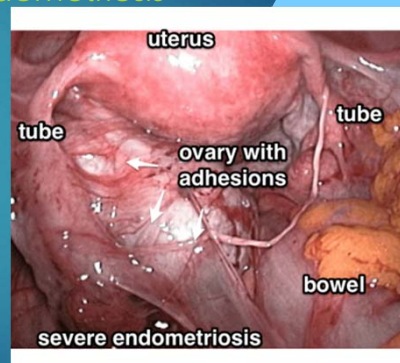
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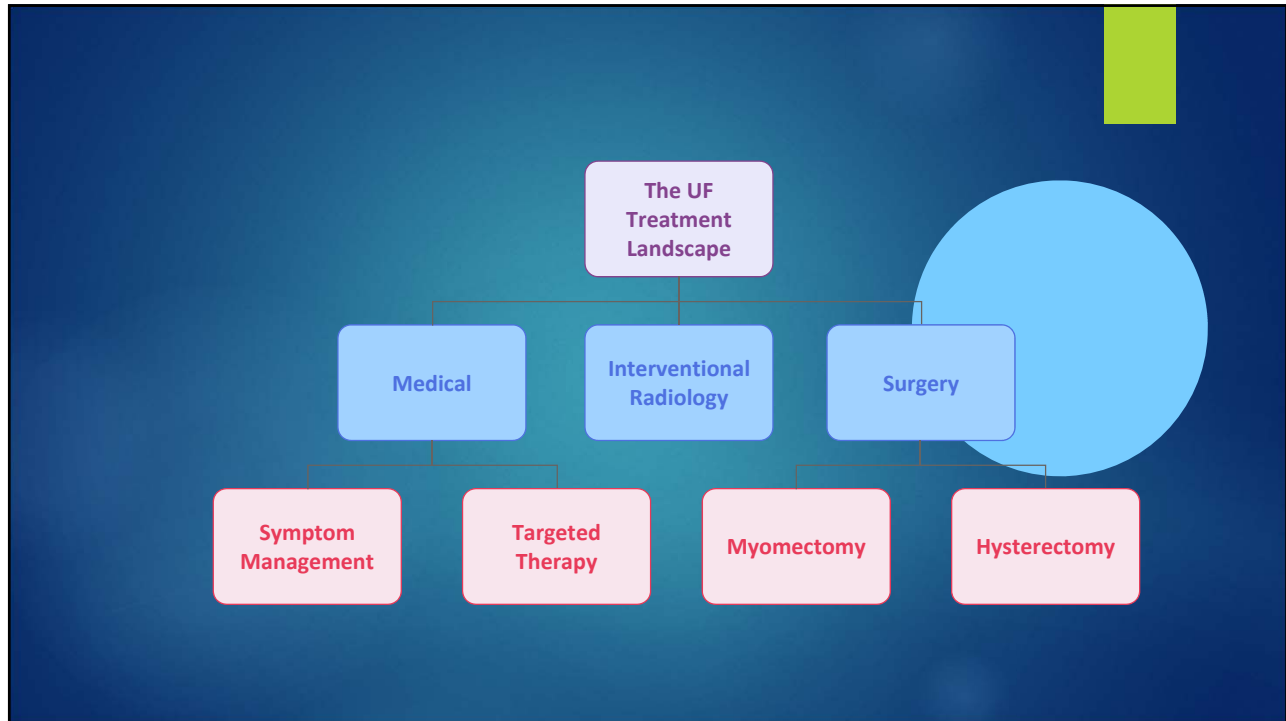
Uterine Fibroids and Endometriosis

Fibroids



Endometriosis

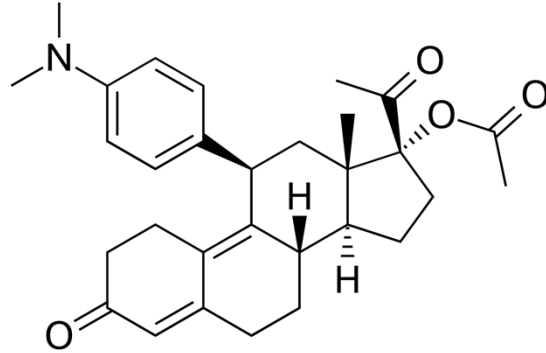




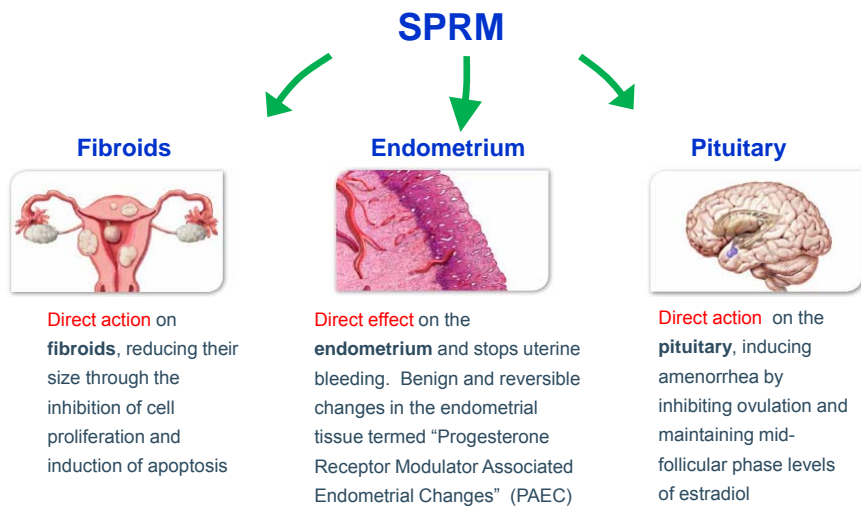
Uterine Fibroids

- ▶ **Medical Management:**
 - ▶ Tranexamic Acid
 - ▶ Hormonal Contraceptives
 - ▶ LNG IUS
 - ▶ Ulipristal Acetate
 - ▶ GnRH Agonists
 - ▶ **GnRH Antagonists**
- ▶ **Surgical Management:**
 - ▶ Uterine Preserving (Myomectomy)
 - ▶ Hysteroscopic
 - ▶ Laparoscopic
 - ▶ Open
 - ▶ Uterine Artery Embolization
 - ▶ **New Options**
 - ▶ Hysterectomy

Fibristal



SPRMs Modulate Progesterone Effect Primarily by Targeting Fibroids, Endometrium and the Pituitary



THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Ulipristal Acetate versus Placebo for Fibroid Treatment before Surgery

Jacques Donnez, M.D., Ph.D., Tetyana F. Tatarchuk, M.D., Ph.D.,
Philippe Bouchard, M.D., Lucian Puscasiu, M.D., Ph.D.,
Nataliya F. Zakharenko, M.D., Ph.D., Tatiana Ivanova, M.D., Ph.D.,
Gyula Ugocsai, M.D., Ph.D., Michal Mara, M.D., Ph.D., Manju P. Jilla, M.B., B.S., M.D.,
Elke Bestel, M.D., Paul Terrill, Ph.D., Ian Osterloh, M.R.C.P.,
and Ernest Loumaye, M.D., Ph.D., for the PEARL I Study Group*

3 months

ITT Population

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Ulipristal Acetate versus Leuprolide Acetate for Uterine Fibroids

Jacques Donnez, M.D., Ph.D., Janusz Tomaszewski, M.D., Ph.D.,
Francisco Vázquez, M.D., Ph.D., Philippe Bouchard, M.D.,
Boguslaw Lemieszczuk, M.D., Francesco Baró, M.D., Ph.D., Kazem Nouri, M.D.,
Luigi Selvaggi, M.D., Krzysztof Sadowski, M.D., Elke Bestel, M.D.,
Paul Terrill, Ph.D., Ian Osterloh, M.R.C.P., and Ernest Loumaye, M.D., Ph.D.,
for the PEARL II Study Group*

3 months

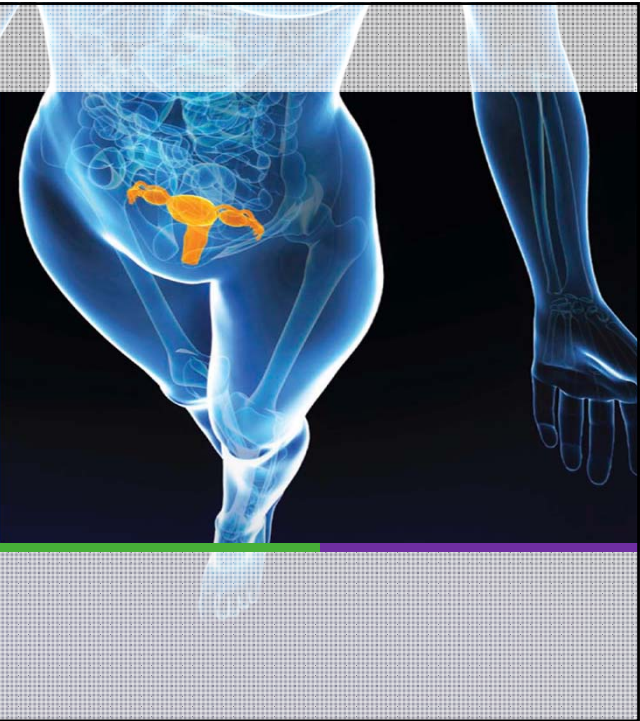
ITT Population

N ENGL J MED 366:5 NEJM.ORG FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Effects of UPA on bleeding control

UPA, ulipristal acetate

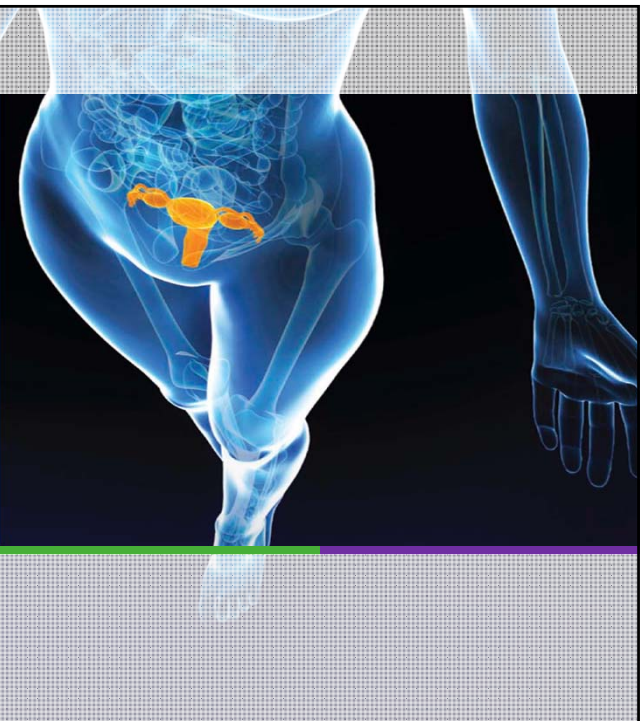
Effects of UPA on fibroid volume reduction



UPA, ulipristal acetate

This slide features a dark blue background on the left with the title "Effects of UPA on fibroid volume reduction" in white text. On the right, there is a semi-transparent anatomical illustration of a female torso and lower limbs. The internal organs, including the uterus and ovaries, are visible in a light blue color. Several fibroids are highlighted in a bright orange color, showing their location within the pelvic region. The slide is framed by a thin black border and has a decorative horizontal bar at the bottom with segments in green, yellow, red, and purple.

Effects of UPA on pain and quality of life



UPA, ulipristal acetate

This slide is identical in layout to the one above, featuring a dark blue background on the left with the title "Effects of UPA on pain and quality of life" in white text. The anatomical illustration on the right shows the same female torso with internal organs and orange-highlighted fibroids. The slide is framed by a thin black border and has a decorative horizontal bar at the bottom with segments in green, yellow, red, and purple.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

4 September 2020
EMA/455818/2020

PRAC recommends revoking marketing authorisation of ulipristal acetate for uterine fibroids

A review by EMA's safety committee (PRAC) has confirmed that 5-mg ulipristal acetate (Esmya and generic medicines) used for the treatment of symptoms of uterine fibroids can cause liver injury, including the need for liver transplantation. The PRAC has therefore recommended the revocation of the marketing authorisations of these medicines.

The PRAC considered all the available evidence in its review, including reported cases of serious liver injury. Patient and healthcare professional representatives, including experts in gynaecology, were also consulted. Since it was not possible to identify which patients were most at risk or measures that could reduce the risk, the PRAC concluded that the risks of these medicines outweighed their benefits and that they should not be marketed in the EU.

The use of 5-mg ulipristal acetate medicines for uterine fibroids had already been suspended as a precautionary measure while awaiting the outcome of this review.

Ulipristal acetate is also authorised as a single-dose medicine for emergency contraception. This recommendation does not affect the single-dose ulipristal acetate emergency contraceptive (ellaOne and other trade names) and there is no concern about liver injury with these medicines.

The PRAC recommendation will now be forwarded to EMA's human medicines committee (CHMP), which will adopt the Agency's opinion.

Important Safety Information FIBRISTAL (ulipristal acetate tablets, 5 mg) Voluntary Withdrawal in Canada due to Risk of Drug-Induced Liver Injury



2020/09/30

Audience

Healthcare professionals including obstetricians, gynecologists, primary care physicians with interest in women's health, hepatologists, emergency room physicians, and pharmacists.

Key messages

- Following rare international cases of severe liver injury requiring liver transplantation, the manufacturer of FIBRISTAL, Allergan Inc., is voluntarily withdrawing the product from the Canadian market. FIBRISTAL was approved in Canada to treat signs and symptoms of uterine fibroids in women of reproductive age.
- On September 24, 2020, Allergan Inc. initiated the recall of FIBRISTAL from the Canadian market to the retail pharmacy level.
- Healthcare professionals are advised to:
 - not prescribe or dispense FIBRISTAL
 - contact patients under their care who are currently being treated with FIBRISTAL to stop treatment, and review alternative treatment options
 - advise patients who have been taking FIBRISTAL to immediately contact a healthcare professional if they experience signs and symptoms of liver injury such as nausea, vomiting, stomach ache, severe tiredness, yellowing of the eyes or skin, or dark urine, which could occur after stopping treatment
 - perform liver function monitoring within 2-4 weeks after treatment with FIBRISTAL has stopped and investigate further if liver function is abnormal

Uterus Conserving Options

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Uterine-Artery Embolization or Myomectomy for Uterine Fibroids

I. Manyonda, A.-M. Belli, M.-A. Lumsden, J. Moss, W. McKinnon, L.J. Middleton, V. Cheed, O. Wu, F. Sirkeci, J.P. Daniels, and K. McPherson, for the FEMME Collaborative Group*

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND
Uterine fibroids, the most common type of tumor among women of reproductive age, are associated with heavy menstrual bleeding, abdominal discomfort, subfertility, and a reduced quality of life. For women who wish to preserve their uterus and who have not had a response to medical treatment, myomectomy and uterine-artery embolization are therapeutic options.

Making Hysterectomy Safer

Received: 1 November 2018 | Revised: 27 April 2019 | Accepted: 13 May 2019
DOI: 10.1111/aogs.13670

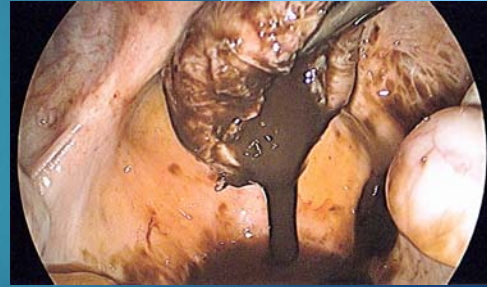
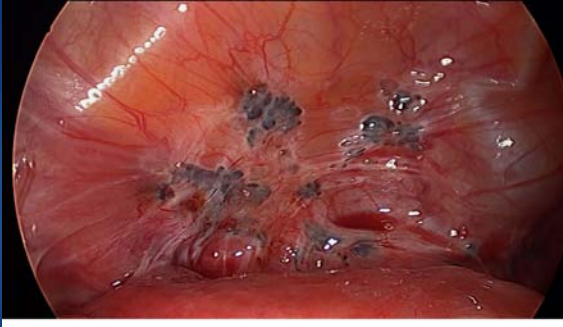
ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

AOGS
Acta Obstetrica et Gynaecologica Scandinavica

Outpatient vs inpatient total laparoscopic hysterectomy: A randomized controlled trial

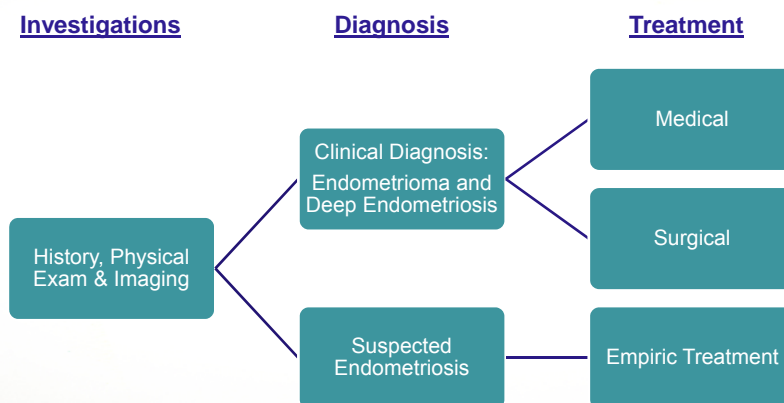
Ulla J. Christiansen¹  | Anne R. Kruse¹  | Peter G. Olesen¹ | Finn F. Lauszus¹  |
Ulrik S. Kesmodel²  | Axel Forman³ 

Endometriosis



Non-surgical Diagnosis of “Endometriotic Disease” Is Possible

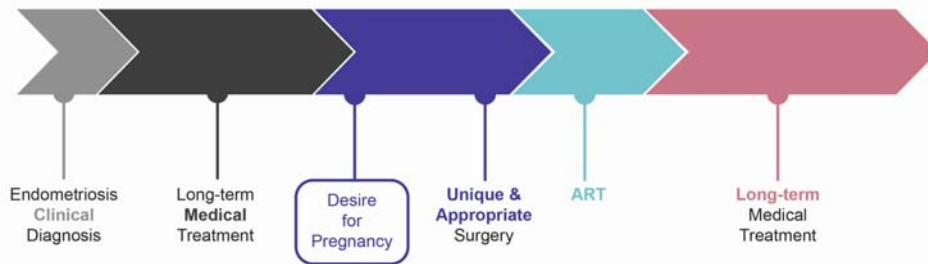
Clinical vs. Suspected Diagnosis of Endometriosis



Bazot M & Darai E. Fertil Steril 2017; 108(6): 886-894. Vercellini P et al. J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2018; 40(6):726-49

A Proposed Treatment Paradigm

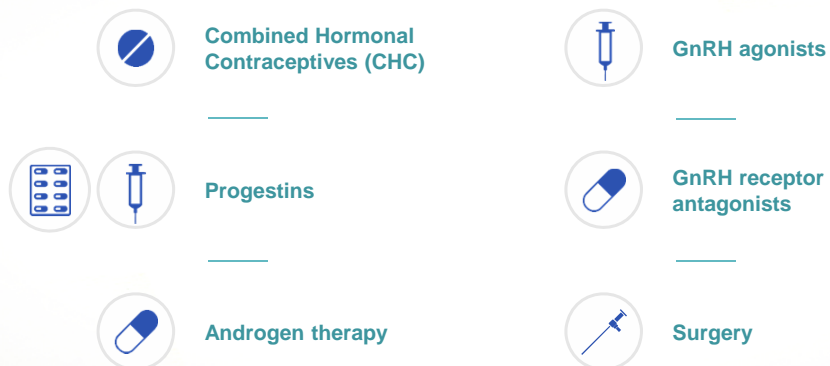
“Endometriosis Life”



ART, assisted reproductive technology.
Chapron, (2018)

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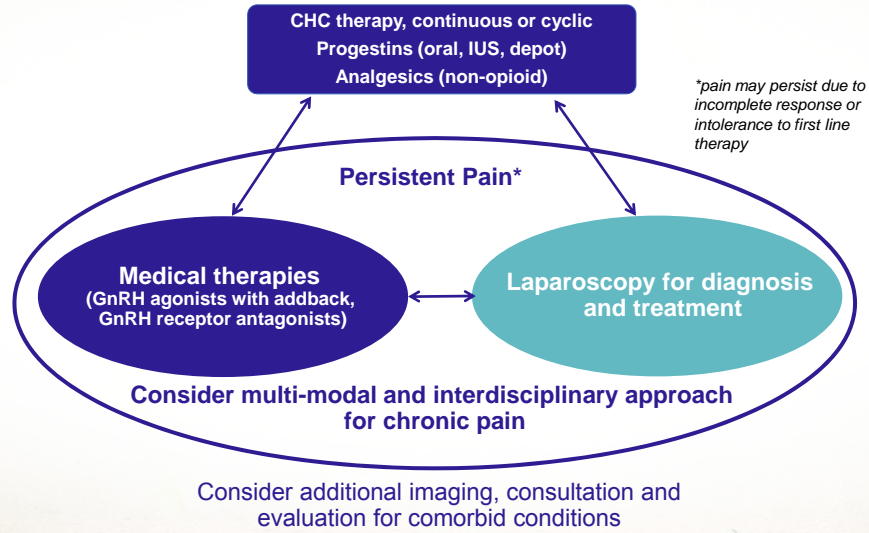
Treatment Options



GnRH: gonadotrophin releasing hormone

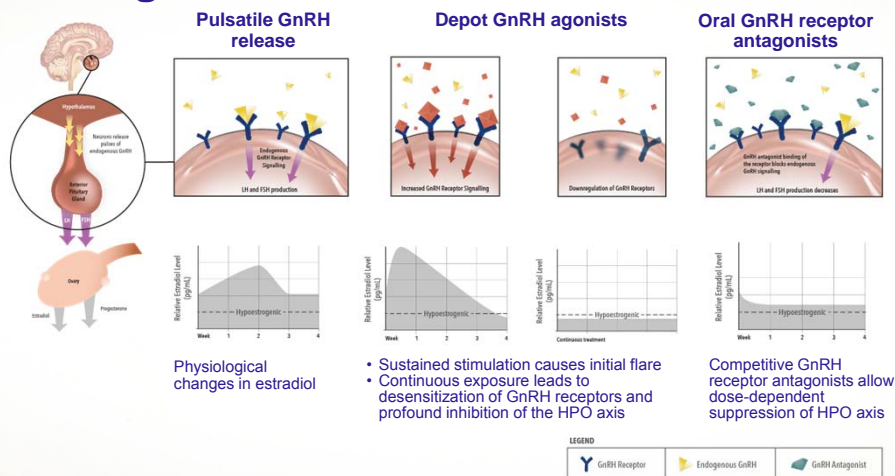
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Treatment Algorithm for Endometriosis-Associated Pain



CHC: combined hormonal contraceptive; GnRH: gonadotrophin releasing hormone; IUS: intrauterine system; Adapted from ESHRE, UK NICE guidelines for endometriosis, WES Consensus, SOGC

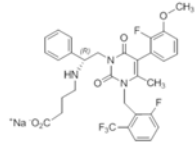
GnRH Agonists vs. Oral GnRH Receptor Antagonists: Mechanisms of Action



GnRH: gonadotropin-releasing hormone; HPO: hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian.
 1. Nussey S, Whitehead S. Endocrinology: An Integrated Approach. Oxford: BIOS Scientific Publishers, London, UK; 2001.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK297/report/printable>. Accessed October 9, 2017. 2. Knobil E. Endocrinology 1992; 131:1005-1006. 3. Reed BG, Carr BR. In: De Groot LJ et al, eds. NCBI Bookshelf. Endotext. South Dartmouth, MA; updated May 2015. Accessed November 2, 2017. 4. Zito G et al. Biomed Res Int 2014; 2014:191967. 5. Gordon K et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab 1991; 73:1262-1268.

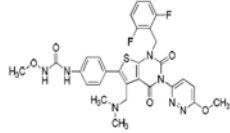
GnRH Receptor Antagonists in Development

ELAGOLIX¹



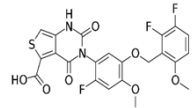
- The only drug approved in the US as Oriahnn for the management of heavy menstrual bleeding associated with uterine leiomyomas (fibroids) in premenopausal women
- Phase 3 development in uterine fibroids
 - **300 mg BID with or without E₂/NETA***

RELUGOLIX²



- Approved as Relumina (Japan) for the management of symptomatic uterine fibroids as monotherapy
- Phase 3 development in uterine fibroids and endometriosis
 - 40 mg relugolix once daily with E₂/NETA*

LINZAGOLIX³

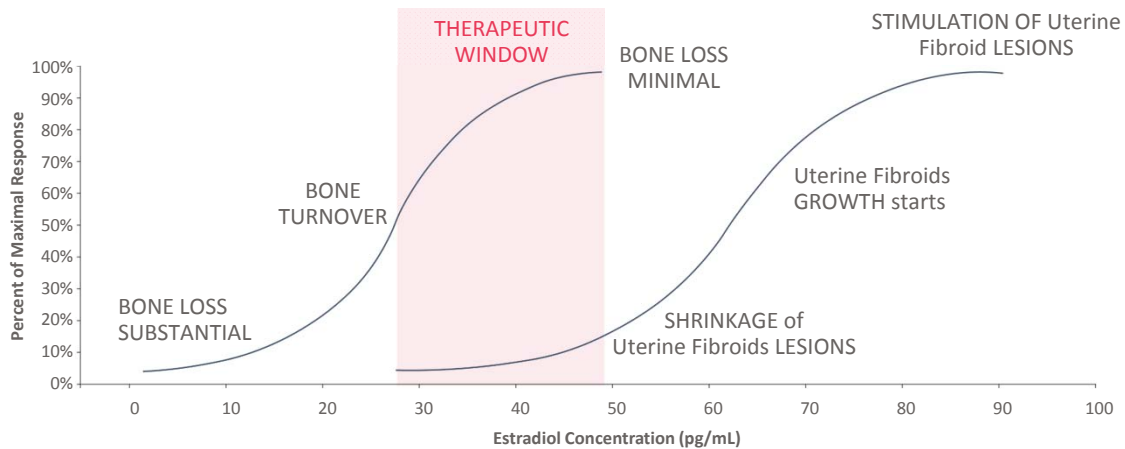


- Phase 3 development in uterine fibroids
 - 100 mg once-daily monotherapy
 - 200 mg once daily with E₂/NETA*

*estradiol 1 mg / norethindrone acetate 0.5 mg

1. Farris M et al. Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management 2019;15:157-178
2. Elisharoud A et al. Drugs of the Future 2019, 44(2):131-143
3. <http://www.jefferies.com/CMSFiles/jefferies.com/files/ObsEva.pdf>

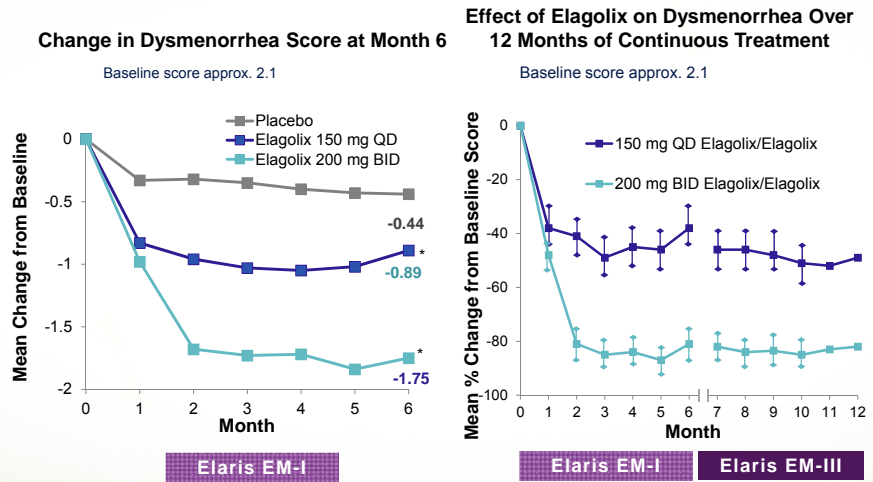
Estradiol Levels Within the Therapeutic Window May Improve Symptoms and Maintain Bone Health



Adapted from Barbieri RL et al.¹

1. Barbieri RL. Am J Obstet Gynecol 1992; 166(2): 740-745.

Effect of Elagolix on Dysmenorrhea Over Time



*P<0.001; Bars represent 95% CI; N range across studies/doses: Baseline=138-149; Extension Month 1=136-148; Extension Month 6=110-122.
 BID: bis in die; QD: quaque die.
 1. Taylor H et al. N Engl J Med 2017; 377:28-40; 2. Surrey E et al. Obstet Gynecol 2018; 132:147-160.
 3. ORILISSA (elagolix) Product Monograph. AbbVie Corporation October 2018.

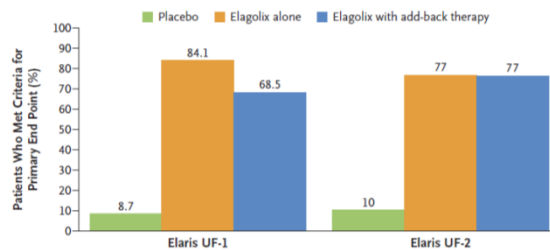
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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Elagolix for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding in Women with Uterine Fibroids

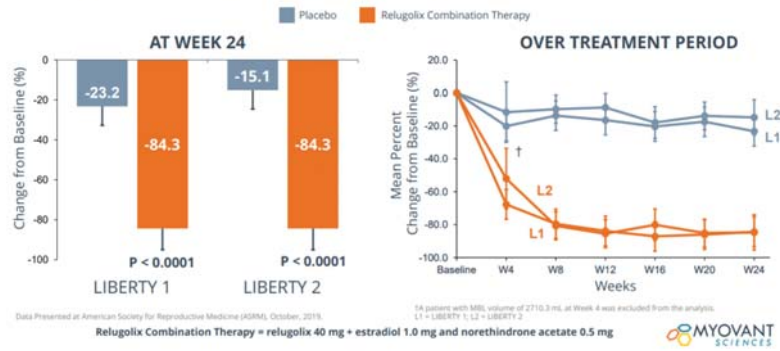
ELAGOLIX FOR HEAVY MENSTRUAL BLEEDING AND FIBROIDS



	Elaris UF-1	Elaris UF-2	Elaris UF-1	Elaris UF-2
Difference from placebo — %	75.4	59.8	66.4	66.0
(95% CI)	(66.2–84.6)	(51.1–68.5)	(55.5–77.3)	(57.1–75.0)
Risk ratio	9.7	7.9	7.1	7.2
(95% CI)	(5.0–18.9)	(4.1–15.5)	(3.8–13.4)	(3.9–13.5)
Two-sided P value	<0.001			
No. of women	102	104	94	95
No. imputed by multiple imputation	8	3	6	11

Relugolix

Reduction in Menstrual Blood Loss Volume with Relugolix Combination Therapy



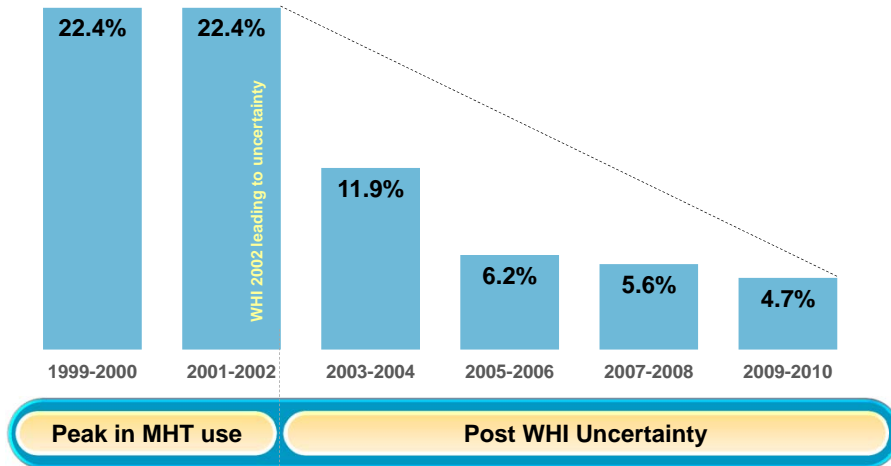
The Hallmark of Menopause

Vasomotor Symptoms (VMS):

- Hot flashes and night sweats affect 75% of peri/postmenopausal women
- VMS have been associated with:
 - Poorer health condition or poorer health status
 - Reduced work productivity
 - Impaired quality of life



Decline in Use of Hormone Therapy Over Time

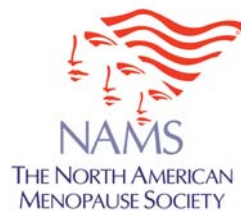


Sprague et al. *Obstet Gynecol* 2012;120(3):595-603.

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2017 NAMS Hormone Therapy Position Statement

- HT is the most effective treatment for VMS and GSM and has been shown to prevent bone loss and fracture
- Benefits are mostly likely to outweigh risks for symptomatic women who initiate HT when aged <60 years or who are within 10 years of menopause onset



GSM, genitourinary syndrome of menopause; HT, hormone therapy; VMS, vasomotor symptoms

NAMS Position Statement. *Menopause* 2017;24(7):728-53.

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Type and timing of menopausal hormone therapy and breast cancer risk: individual participant meta-analysis of the worldwide epidemiological evidence

Collaborative Group on Hormonal Factors in Breast Cancer*

oa

Summary

Background Published findings on breast cancer risk associated with different types of menopausal hormone therapy (MHT) are inconsistent, with limited information on long-term effects. We bring together the epidemiological evidence, published and unpublished, on these associations, and review the relevant randomised evidence.

Methods Principal analyses used individual participant data from all eligible prospective studies that had sought information on the type and timing of MHT use; the main analyses are of individuals with complete information on this. Studies were identified by searching many formal and informal sources regularly from Jan 1, 1992, to Jan 1, 2018. Current users were included up to 5 years (mean 1.4 years) after last-reported MHT use. Logistic regression yielded adjusted risk ratios (RRs) comparing particular groups of MHT users versus never users.

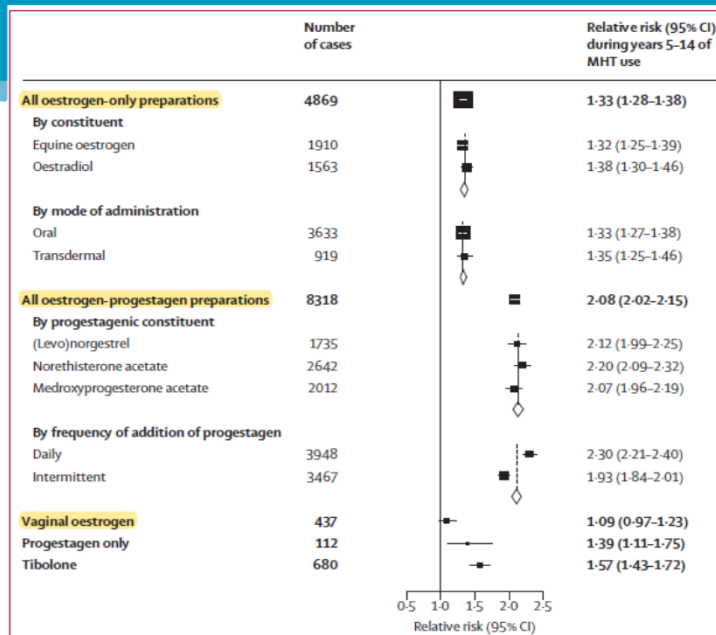
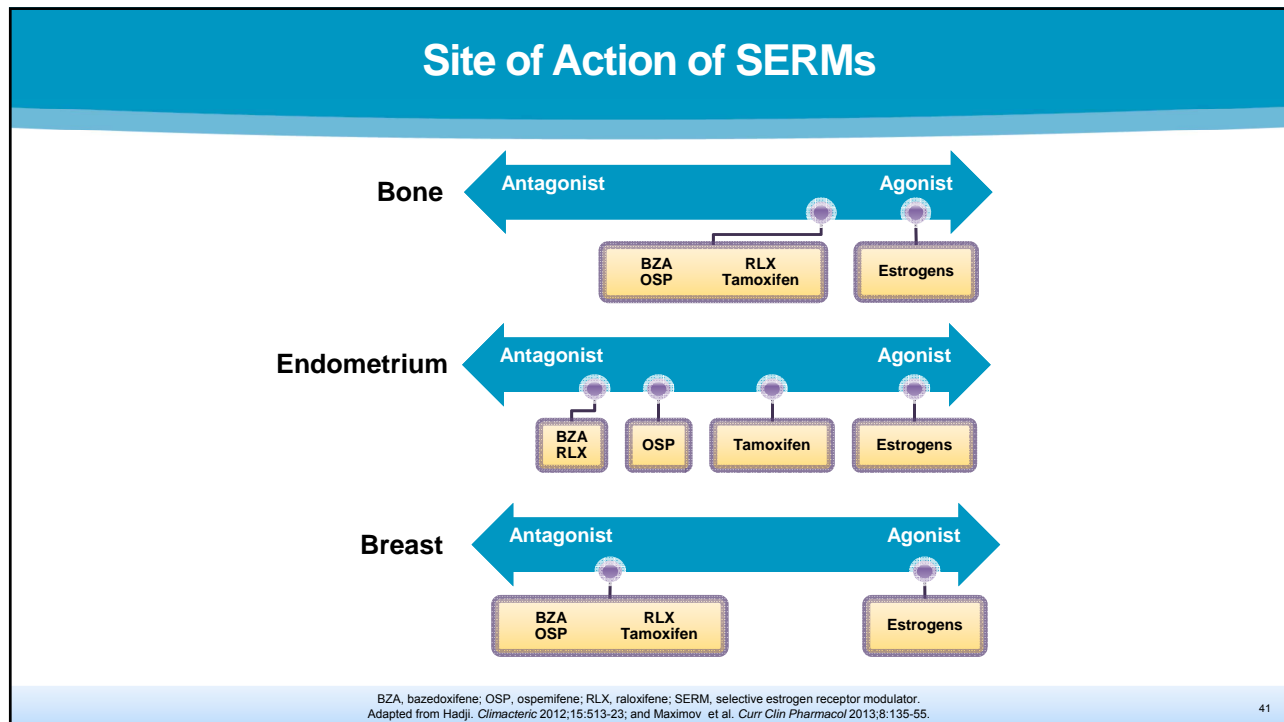


Figure 4: Main types of MHT: relative risks during years 5-14 of current use



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Tissue-Selective Estrogen Complexes (TSECs)

TSEC

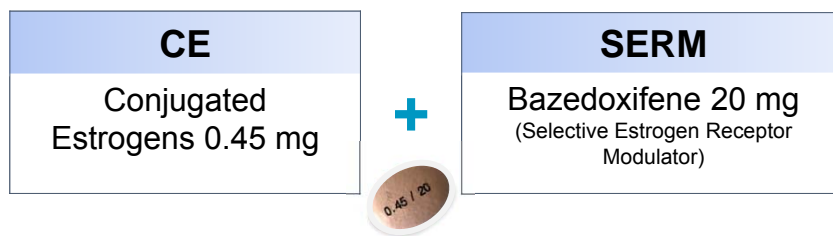
The purposeful pairing of a SERM with one or more estrogens to achieve pharmacologic results based on their blended tissue-selective activity profile^{1,2}

1. Komm. *Reprod Sci* 2008;15(10):984-92; 2. Berrodin et al. *Mol Endocrinol* 2009;23(1):74-85.

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CE/BZA (DUAVIVE) Dosage & Administration

- One DUAVIVE tablet taken orally around the same time every day
- Tablet should be swallowed whole with fluid and not divided, crushed, chewed or dissolved in mouth
- Taken at any time of day, with or without food
- After opening foil pouch, product must be used within 45 days
- Duration of use should be consistent with treatment goals and benefits and risks for the individual



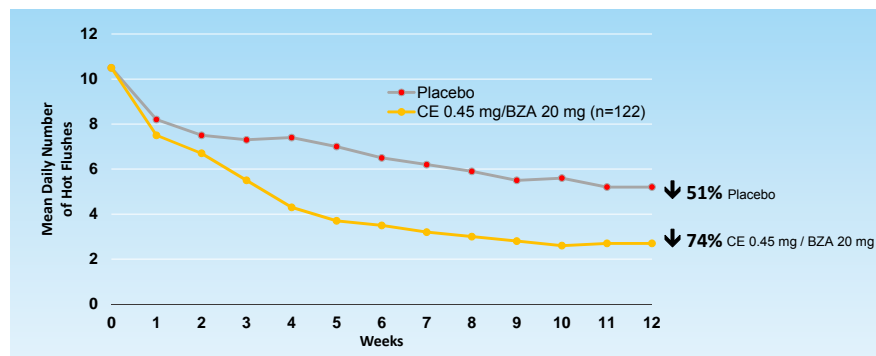
DUAVIVE™ Product Monograph

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CE/BZA
Results

Reduction in Mean Daily Number of Moderate to Severe Hot Flashes

Significant decreases in the number of hot flashes vs. placebo from week 3 to 12 for CE/BZA (P=0.008); MITT population (LOCF).



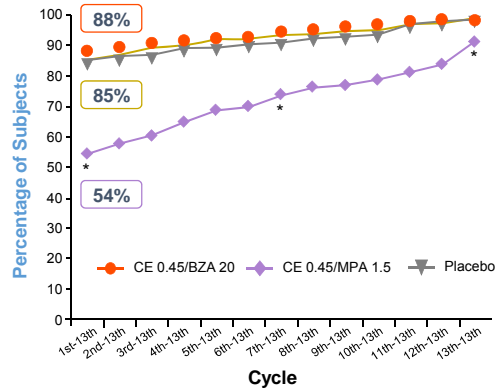
BZA, bazedoxifene, CE, conjugated estrogens; LOCF, last observation carried forward; MITT, modified intent-to-treat.

Pinkerton et al. *Menopause* 2009;16(6):1116-24.

44

Rates of Bleeding/Spotting and Amenorrhea Similar to Placebo

Percentage of subjects with cumulative amenorrhea during consecutive 4-week periods (cycles) in SMART-5



- High and similar cumulative rates of amenorrhea at year 1 among women treated with CE/BZA and placebo; and was higher than seen in women treated with CE 0.45/MPA 1.5
- Noncumulative rates of spotting and bleeding/spotting were similar among women treated with CE/BZA or placebo and consistently higher in women treated with CE 0.45/MPA 1.5

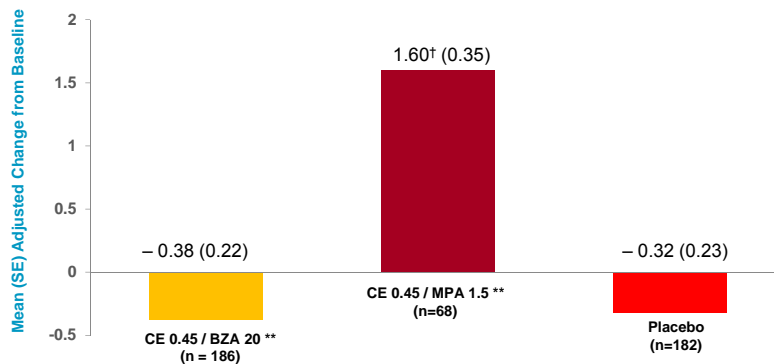
BZA, bazedoxifene; CE, conjugated estrogens; MPA, medroxyprogesterone acetate. *P<0.001 vs all other treatment groups.

Pinkerton et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2014;99(2):189-98.

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Change in Breast Density at 1 Year*

Neutral effect of CE/BZA, but not CE/MPA, on adjusted change from baseline in % breast density vs. placebo (P<0.001) at year 1



*Modified intent-to-treat population included all participants enrolled in the breast density substudy who took ≥1 doses of the study drug, had a baseline breast density evaluation and had ≥1 postbaseline evaluations. †P<0.001 vs. placebo. ** All doses mg/day. Note that CE/BZA and placebo arms not significantly changed from baseline despite negative values. BZA, bazedoxifene; CE, conjugated estrogens; MPA, medroxyprogesterone acetate; SE, standard error.

Pinkerton et al. *Obstet Gynecol* 2013;121(5):959-68; Pinkerton et al. *Menopause* 2009;16(6):1116-24.

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What Is ^cTibella[®] (tibolone)?

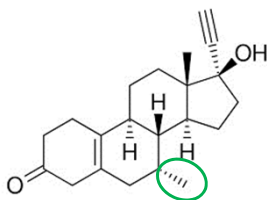
- Tibolone is a well-established treatment for climacteric complaints and prevention of osteoporosis in post-menopausal women in Europe
- Used in Europe since 1988
- Available in 90+ countries

^cTibella[®] is approved in Canada for short-term treatment of vasomotor symptoms due to estrogen deficiency in postmenopausal women, more than one year after menopause

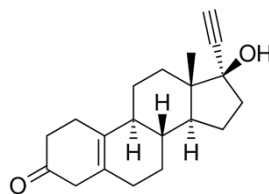
BioSyent

^cTibella[®]

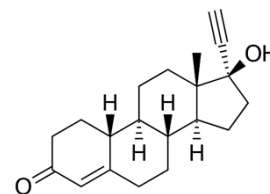
Molecular Structure



Tibolone



Norethynodrel

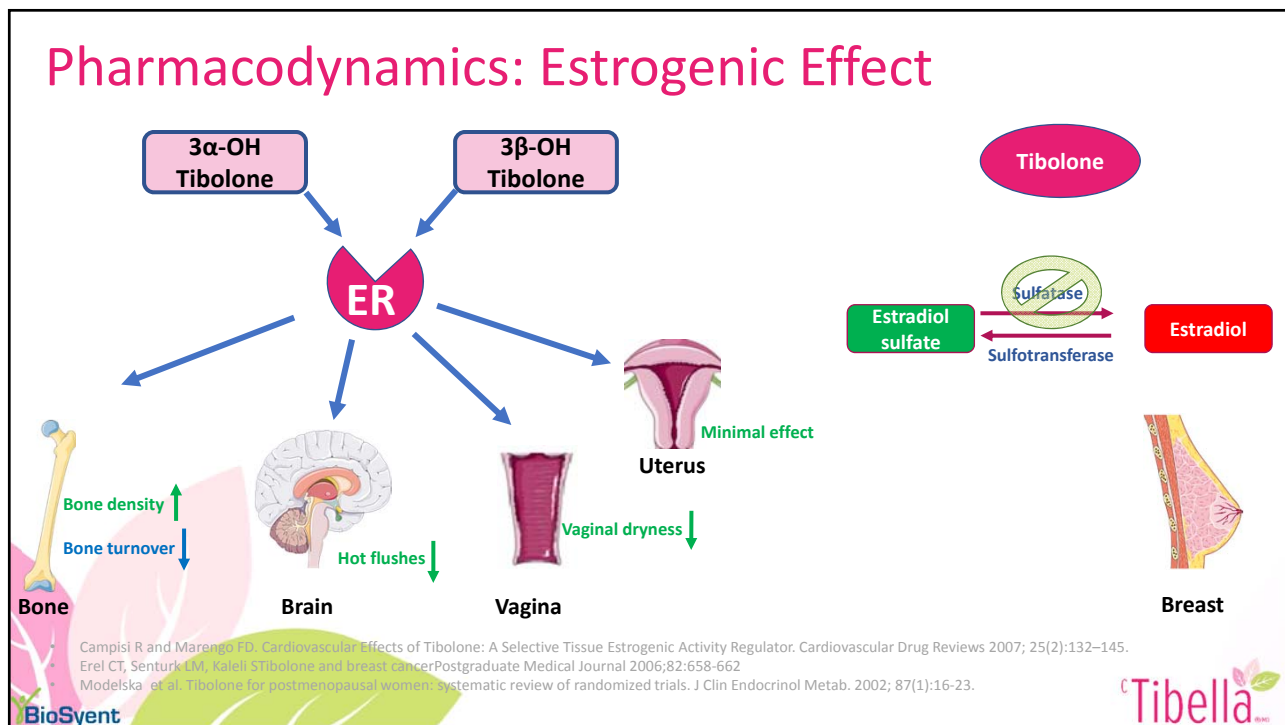
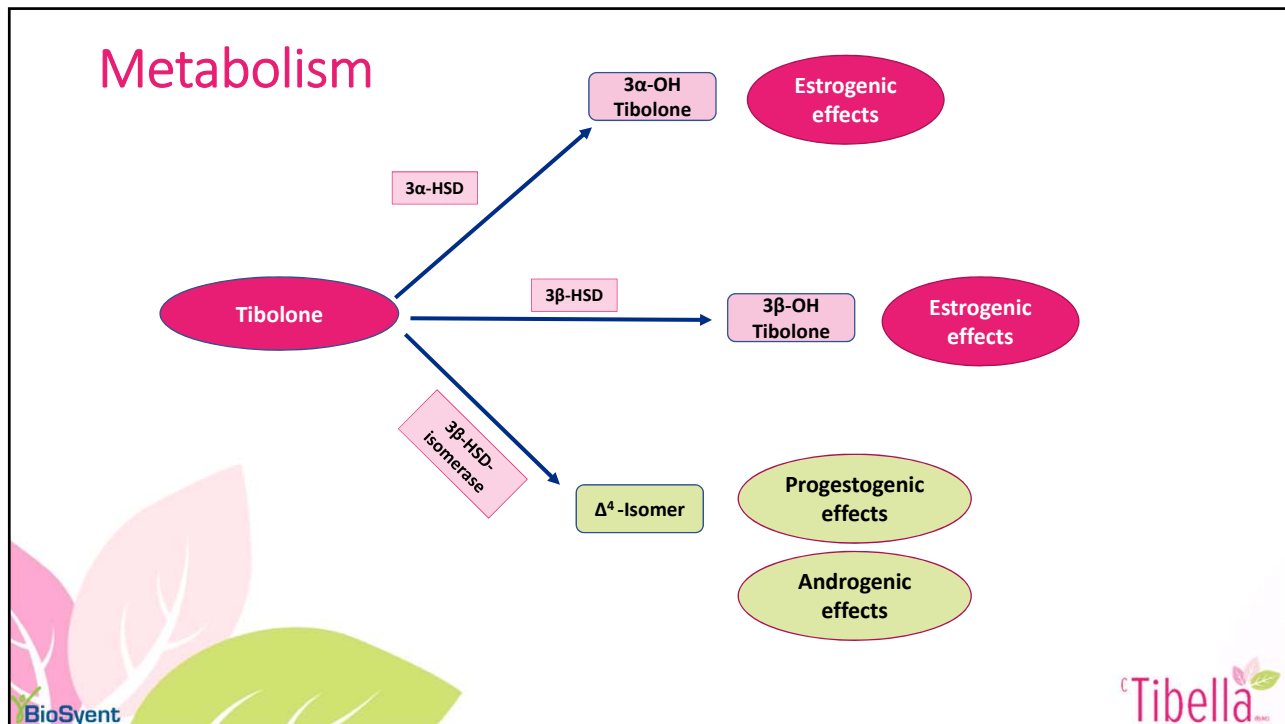


Norethisterone

The presence of the 7-methyl group means that the Δ^4 -isomer is not subject to 5-reduction and therefore it retains its progestogenic activity in the endometrium for considerably longer period

BioSyent

^cTibella[®]



Campisi R and Marengo FD. Cardiovascular Effects of Tibolone: A Selective Tissue Estrogenic Activity Regulator. Cardiovascular Drug Reviews 2007; 25(2):132-145.
 Erel CT, Senturk LM, Kaleli ST. Tibolone and breast Cancer. Postgraduate Medical Journal 2006; 82:658-662
 Modelska et al. Tibolone for postmenopausal women: systematic review of randomized trials. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2002; 87(1):16-23.

Pharmacodynamics: Tibolone-Progestogenic and Androgenic Effects

