

HRT for women who have menopausal symptoms following surgery for epithelial ovarian cancer: Is it safe?

Clinical Question	How safe and effective is hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for menopausal symptoms in women surgically treated for epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC).
Bottom Line	HRT may improve overall survival in women who have undergone surgery for EOC. However, this is based on low-certainty evidence and therefore should be interpreted with caution. We are very uncertain about the impact of HRT on progression-free survival and incidence of adverse events such as breast cancer, transient ischaemic accident, cerebrovascular accident and myocardial infarction. Women and their doctors should therefore make decisions based on individual priorities and symptoms.
Caveat	None of the studies were blinded and two studies had high rates of discontinuation of therapy or loss to follow up. One study was based in Europe and was multi centred with the remaining two from China and South Africa.
Context	Women who have undergone surgical treatment for EOC may develop menopausal symptoms due to immediate loss of ovarian function following surgery and chemotherapy. Women may experience vasomotor symptoms, sleep disturbance, difficulty concentrating, sexual dysfunction, vaginal symptoms and accelerated osteoporosis. Although HRT is the most effective treatment to relieve these symptoms, its safety has been questioned for women with EOC.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Saeai N et al. Hormone replacement therapy after surgery for epithelial ovarian cancer. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2020, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD012559. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012559.pub2. This review contains three studies involving 370 participants.

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Systematic review link:

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD012559.pub2/full>