



<b>Title</b>	<b>Hormone Replacement Therapy After Breast Cancer</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	SMM Report No. 2/2003. ISBN 82-14-02957-0; Systematic review

## **Aim**

To perform a systematic review of the literature and assess the scientific evidence on the following issue: Does HRT increase or decrease the risk of breast cancer recurrence or breast cancer death in patients with previous breast cancer?

## **Conclusions and results**

Of the 2,659 articles found, only 8 were considered relevant to the question. Of these, 2 were of moderate quality, and were included as evidence. The remaining 6 were given a lower quality score by the expert group and were excluded. All studies were observational, and no randomized controlled trials (RCTs) articles could be found.

Although neither of the studies indicated an increased risk of breast cancer recurrence, the documentation currently available is too weak to allow firm conclusions to be drawn in either direction.

Ongoing randomized controlled trials (RCTs) may provide the answers in a few years.

In the meantime, it would be beneficial to the patients if clinicians could agree on a common information strategy.

The need for more research in this area was clearly revealed, and should be given substantial attention and support. Women who seek HRT should be encouraged to participate in the ongoing trials.

## **Methods**

Clinical trials relevant to the above objective were identified by searches in EMBASE, MEDLINE, PubMed, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and Protocols, and Cochrane Controlled Trials Register. In addition, a hand search was conducted of reference lists in the reviewed papers.