

Does the menopausal status of female gynecologists affect their prescription of menopausal hormone therapy?

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Resumen

Objective: To evaluate whether menopausal status and symptoms among female gynecologists would influence their clinical behavior related to menopausal hormone therapy (MHT). **Methods:** Female gynecologists of 11 Latin American countries were requested to fill out the Menopause Rating Scale and a questionnaire containing personal information and that related to MHT use. **Results:** A total of 818 gynecologists accepted to participate (86.4%). Overall, the mean age was 45.010.7 years, 32.2% were postmenopausal, and 17.6% worked in an academic position; 81.8% reported that they would use MHT if they have symptoms, regardless of menopausal status. Academic gynecologists favor personal MHT use at a higher rate ($p = 0.04$) and have a higher MHT prescription rate as compared to non-academic ones ($p = 0.0001$). The same trend was observed among post- as compared to premenopausal ones ($p = 0.01$) and among those who had hysterectomy alone as compared to those experiencing natural menopause ($p = 0.002$). The presence of menopausal symptoms did not influence their MHT prescription. Current use of MHT and alternative therapy was higher among post- than premenopausal gynecologists (both, $p=0.0001$) and among those who had undergone hysterectomy than those experiencing natural menopause. A 38.5% perceived breast cancer as the main risk related to MHT, and a high proportion prescribed non-hormonal drugs (86.4%) or alternative therapies (84.5%). **Conclusion:** Most female gynecologists in this survey would use MHT if menopausal symptoms were present.

Postmenopausal physicians use MHT and prescribe it to their symptomatic patients at a higher rate than premenopausal physicians.

Palabras clave

Palabras clave de autor: Beliefs; perceptions; female gynecologists; menopausal hormone therapy; prescription

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Editorial

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