

Patients' and clinicians' attitudes after the Women's Health Initiative study

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Objective: To assess the effect of the publication of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study on patients' and physicians' attitudes in relation to hormone therapy (HT). **Design:** A survey focused on the degree of knowledge and on the reactions to the WHI study was administered to 600 women allocated in two groups according to their socioeconomic status, high (HSES) or low (LSES). Additionally, 283 physicians were surveyed to determine their attitudes regarding HT after the publication of the WHI study. The rates of HT prescription before and after publication of the study were compared. **Results:** Among patients, HT use and knowledge of the WHI study were less common among women of lower socioeconomic status (LSES 16.7% v HSES 47.3%, and LSES 15.7% v HSES 67.3%; $P < 0.0001$). Of the women in the LSES group who were HT users and had knowledge on the subject of the WHI study ($n = 30$), 56.7% contacted their physicians and 6.6% abandoned HT. These rates were similar for women in the HSES gro