

Use of hormone replacement therapy among Chilean women: A comparison between socioeconomic levels

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Objective: To compare the use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) among Chilean women according to their socioeconomic level. **Methods:** A total of 540 women between 50 and 79 years of age were interviewed in Santiago, Chile. Women were allocated into two groups (H, high; L, low), according to their socioeconomic status. **Results:** Each group consisted of 270 women. The mean age and percentage of menopausal women were similar in both groups. Of the interviewed women, 47% had taken HRT at some time; marked differences between the two groups were observed (L, 15%; H, 79%; $p < 0.0001$). In group H, the percentage of women who had been advised about HRT was close to 88%, whereas, in group L, the percentage was only 24%. Among the women who were informed about HRT, 83% ($n = 253$) had used it at some time. The percentage of women who used HRT for <2 years was similar in both groups. The main reason for not taking HRT in group H was fear of adverse effects, whereas the main reason for not taking i