

Hormone Therapy and Side Effects

Some breast cancers need the hormones estrogen and/or progesterone to grow. Hormone therapy treats breast cancer by preventing the cancer cells from getting the hormones they need to grow. Hormone therapy is only used to treat hormone receptor-positive breast cancers. Most breast cancers are hormone receptor-positive. There are two main types of hormone therapy — tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors. Other therapies, such as ovarian suppression (drug therapy or surgery to prevent the ovaries from making estrogen), are sometimes used.

Q: How does hormone therapy treat certain breast cancers?

A:

Q: Do I need hormone therapy? If so, why and which kind?

A:

Q: What tests were done on my tumor? What were the estrogen receptor status and progesterone receptor status of my tumor? How do these affect my treatment plan?

A:

Q: When will hormone therapy be started? How long will I be on it?

A:

Q: How do I take it? How often?

A:

Q: What are the possible side effects of hormone therapy? How long will they last? Which ones should I report to you?

A:

Q: What are the risks if I stop taking hormone therapy?

A:

Q: What out of pocket costs may I expect?

A:

Q: Is there a generic form of this hormone therapy? Is it as effective as the name-brand?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

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