

LETTERS

HRT AND CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS

Trial does not change the conclusions of Cochrane review of long term hormone therapy for perimenopausal and postmenopausal women

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We considered whether to include Schierbeck and colleagues' trial in our 2012 Cochrane review of long term hormone therapy for perimenopausal and postmenopausal women.^{1 2}

However, it did not meet the inclusion criteria for our review because it had no placebo control group. We also thought that the open label design may have influenced the behaviour of those taking the hormone therapy. Furthermore, we had serious concerns about the use of a composite outcome that was not described in the original study protocol in 1990.

Our review concluded that hormone therapy is not indicated for primary or secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease and that there are insufficient data to assess the risk of long term

use in perimenopausal women or postmenopausal women under 50 years of age. These conclusions remain unchanged.

Competing interests: None declared.

- 1 Schierbeck LL, Rejnmark L, Tofteng CL, Stilgren L, Eiken P, Mosekilde L, et al. Effect of hormone replacement therapy on cardiovascular events in recently postmenopausal women: randomised trial. *BMJ* 2012;345:e6409. (9 October.)
- 2 Marjoribanks J, Farquhar C, Roberts H, Lethaby A. Long term hormone therapy for perimenopausal and postmenopausal women. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2012;7:CD004143.

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