



ROLE OF HORMONE THERAPY IN MEDICAL ONCOLOGY-

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**ABSTRACT**

First person was an Scottish surgeon Mr George beatson who removed ovary of breast cancer patient in 1896 and found that tumor regressed but recurrence soon occurred resulted into disuse of procedure However 30 year later again in 1922 estrogen hormone was isolated people again thought of ovarian irradiation or surgical oophorectomy in breast cancer patients in 1941 Huggins from usa reported favorable outcome of prostatic cancer while removing testis since that lots of work on hormone, treatment of breast cancer prostate cancer, thyroid cancer, endometrial cancer, Prostate has been done so far .

**KEYWORDS :** Ovarian cancer, Thyroid cancer, Prostate Cancer

**DISCUSSION-**

Hormone treatment of breast cancer patients  
Locally advanced breast cancer



Given 4 cycle of neo adjuvant chemotherapy ---- followed by response assessment  
(Good response lesion become T1, T2, N0,N1, breast conservation therapy can be performed----followed by radiotherapy----maintenance treatment----hormone therapy)  
(Poor response ---change type of chemotherapy---still no response  
(Role of pre op radiotherapy)---Modified radical mastectomy---radiation therapy---maintenance chemotherapy---hormone treatment)

Breast function and development depends upon  
Directly----estrogen,progesterone,prolactin hormone  
Indirectly---- corticosteroids, growth hormone, thyroid hormone estrogen responsible for ductal growth and progesterone responsible for alveolar growth

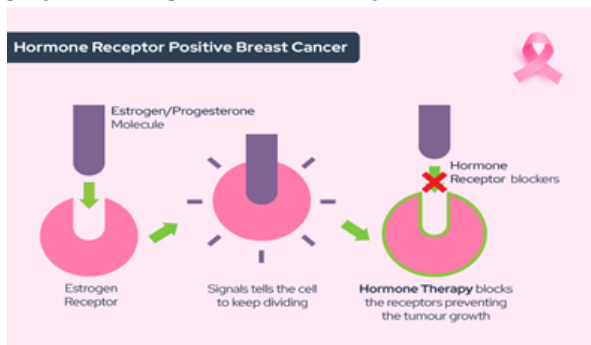


Figure -1

**RECEPTOR STATUS**

There are specific cytoplasm receptor known as estrogen and progesterone receptors present in breast tissue, this hormone present in tissue and stimulate cell growth by binding hormone receptors legend complex goes into nucleus attached to specific site of DNA and stimulate gene responsible for production of several growth factor

- 1- fibroblastic growth factor
- 2- transforming growth factor
- 3- insulin like growth factor
- 4- epidermal growth factor

Estrogen and progesterone receptor are cytosol protein that can be identified either on primary tumor tissue or metastatic tissue

Technique used are---Immuno histochemistry & fish technology  
ER---positive & pr - positive - status in premenopausal women----45%  
ER---positive & pr - positive - status in postmenopausal women----65%

Biopsy required for receptor status study not fnac  
ER considered positive when > 10 fmol/mg of breast tissue  
PR considered positive when > 5 fmol/mg of breast tissue  
ER, PR Status evaluation must be done prior to chemotherapy or radiotherapy because adjuvant treatment might change the receptor status due to inherent tumor biology during surgery Cauterization must be avoided because these receptors are heat labile

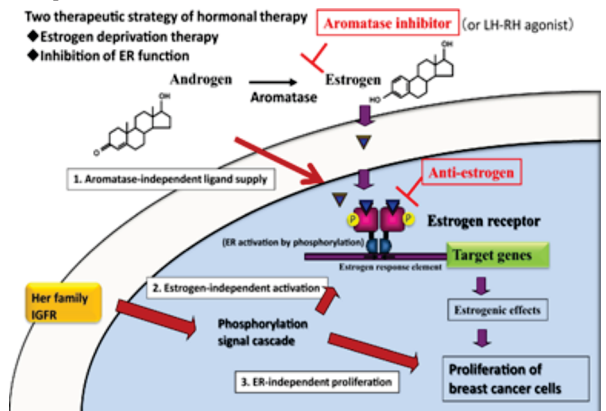


Figure-2

**Response status with hormone treatment**

RECEPTOR -ER Positive ,PR Positive = 78%  
ER + , PR - = 35%  
ER- , PR- = 10%  
ER- , PR+ = 45%

Why ER-ve,PR-ve tumor still have 10%response reacts with hormone treatment because it is a quantitative assessment , Tamoxifen anti estrogenic drug but has a weak agonist action on endometrium, it blocks the estrogen hormone action on estrogen receptor, henceforth it blocks the production of several growth factor responsible for tumor growth

tamoxifen dose recommended is 10 mg bd or 20 mg od, it can be used as primary modality of treatment in very old lady not suitable for surgery or radiation therapy

#### SIDE EFFECT OF TAMOXIFEN

Hot flushes (SSRI)-40% most common, vaginal dryness, fluid retention, irregular menstruation, thromboembolism, 2%, risk of endometrial hyperplasia---endometrial cancer  
Some patient does not response to hormone therapy?

#### What is tamoxifen resistance?

Tamoxifen have both antiestrogenic effect as well as weak estrogenic effect some breast cancer cells shows cellular hyper sensitization to the weak estrogenic effect of tamoxifen leading to tamoxifen resistance

#### Aromatase inhibitor

we know post menopausal women major source of estrogen is from adrenal gland, it produces Androestrodian which gets converted in peripheral adipose tissue into estrogen by help of aromatase enzyme, thus aromatase inhibitor can be use as anti estrogenic drug dose 1 letrozol 2.5 mg od 2 Anastrozol 1 mg od

#### Indication of aromatase inhibitor over tamoxifen

- 1) post menopausal women
- 2) women h/o tamoxifen response
- 3) women with h/o dvt
- 4) women with her 2+ve status

#### Side effect of Aromatase inhibitor

Hot flushes (can be treated by SSRI (example Venlafloxin), vaginal dryness, musculoskeletal pain, high rate of osteoporosis compare to tamoxifen, headache, duration of treatment still unanswered.

#### OTHER OPTIONS FOR HARMONAL MANIPULATION

LHRH agonist—Goserline (zoldex) 33.6 mg s/c 4 weekly  
Leuprolide 3.75 mg s/c 4 weekly or ovarian ablation with radiotherapy 15 Gy /5#  
Progesterone—Medroxyprogesterone (provera) 400-500 mg po daily or i.m injection 500 mg weekly  
pure antiestrogen ( fulvestrant) 250 mg Im monthly

#### HORMONE TREATMENT OF PROSTATE CANCER INDICATION

- 1) Giving adjuvant treatment before and after radiation increases survival
- 2) Single treatment with hormone is not sufficient combine treatment with orchidectomy & hormone therapy is required
- 3) Men who are osteopenic /osteoporotic should be strongly considered for Bisphosphonate treatment (zoledronic acid)

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND—

Almost a century ago androgen dependency of the prostate was shown by white, who treated malignant prostatic enlargement by orchidectomy without hormone treatment in localized diseases failure rate 10%, Without hormone treatment in extra capsular diseases failure rate 25%, Without hormone treatment in seminal vesicle involvement failure rate 75%, Hormone treatment is a sheet anchor for advanced prostatic cancer treatment

#### MODES OF HORMONE MANIPULATION

- 1) ESTROGEN
- 2) ORCHIDECTOMY
- 3) LHRH AGONIST
- 4) NON STEROIDAL ANTIESTROGEN

ESTROGEN -Act by supporting LHRH and LH release thus

taking away stimulus for testosterone production Major disadvantage- (cardiovascular effect)



Figure-3

**ORCHIDECTOMY**—Bilateral orchidectomy is a gold standard which rapidly brings down the serum testosterone to 1/10 th pre treatment value, Disadvantage—physical trauma to emasculation, loss of libido, erectile impotency, LHRH agonist- LHRH naturally secreted by hypothalamus, however if larger dose of LHRH agonist build up thus pituitary become refractory to LHRH stimulus thus stop secreting LH hormone thus decreases production of testosterone, however initially during LHRH agonist treatment these increases in testosterone production might leads to increase in symptom called flare phenomena, this can be effectively blocked by combining LHRH agonist treatment initially with anti androgenic drug like flutamide 250 mg tds.

#### NON STEROIDAL ANTI ESTROGENIC DRUGS-

Flutamide and Bicalutamide, They are androgen receptor antagonist. They act inhibiting binding of testosterone and dihydrotestosterone to androgen receptor in target tissue. Doses flutamide 250mg tds and calutide 50 mg od

#### SIDE EFFECTS OF NONSTEROIDAL ANTI ESTROGENIC DRUG ARE

1. Gynecomastia
2. Gastrointestinal side effect
3. Derange Liver function tests

Advantage of treatment with non steroidal anti androgenic drugs, No cardiovascular side effects, Maintaining the sexual potency, Treatment with flutamide and orchidectomy leads to significant improvement in overall survival metastatic prostatic cancer

**Hormone treatment in thyroid cancer** - Differentiated thyroid cancer patients after surgery & radio iodine treatment patient developed hypothyroidism, to aim of giving external thyroxin treatment life long,

- 1) after surgery to avoid deficiency of t3/t4 hormone
- 2) after surgery left over malignant cells might repopulate under influence of TSH thus to decrease TSH level be give T3 T4 hormone treatment

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