

Menopause and gynecological conditions:

Cervical, vaginal and vulvar cancers

Worldwide, about 1.4 million new cases of gynecological cancer are diagnosed each year. Cervical cancer accounts for over 660,000 of these cases.

None of these cancers are hormone dependent.

Indications and contraindications for menopausal hormone therapy

- Menopausal hormone therapy (MHT) is not contraindicated after treatment for cervical or vaginal cancer
- Continuous combined estrogen-progestogen MHT or tibolone is advised after pelvic chemoradiotherapy
- MHT or local estrogen is not contraindicated after treatment for **vulvar squamous cell carcinoma**
- There is insufficient evidence to support or contraindicate MHT following treatment for **vulvar melanoma**

The start of MHT should await tumor pathology and hormone sensitivity, staging and treatment planning.

Choice of therapy

- The choice of therapy depends on whether the woman has been hysterectomized
- For premenopausal women treated for **cervical cancer**, estrogen-only MHT is recommended after hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy

In-utero exposure to diethylstilbestrol (DES)

- Women were exposed to DES in utero from the 1950s to 1960
- DES is associated with an increased risk of clear cell cancers of the vagina and cervix
- Currently, no data are available on the use of systemic or topical estrogen by these women

Further information

EMAS (2025). CareOnline. Health at menopause and beyond <https://emas-online.org/guidelines-and-education/#emas-care-online>

British Gynaecological Cancer Society and British Menopause Society (2024) Guideline. Management of menopausal symptoms following treatment of gynaecological cancer <https://www.bgcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BGCS-BMS-Guidelines-on-Management-of-Menopausal-Symptoms-after-Gynaecological-Cancer-09.09.24.pdf>

Zhu et al. (2024). Global burden of gynaecological cancers in 2022 and projections to 2050 <https://doi.org/10.7189/jogh.14.04155>

US National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Guidelines: Treatment by cancer type https://www.nccn.org/guidelines/category_1