



# DEFINIZIONE DI STATO MENOPAUSALE

## Scenario 1

Donna in pre-menopausa prima dell'avvio dei trattamenti oncologici, in amenorrea durante il trattamento con tamoxifene e che ha completato 5 anni di trattamento con il farmaco

## Scenario 2

Donna in pre-menopausa prima dell'avvio dei trattamenti oncologici, in amenorrea durante il trattamento con tamoxifene e che ha completato 2-3 anni di trattamento con il farmaco

TAMOXIFENE

?

INIBITORI  
DELL'AROMATASI



# DEFINIZIONE DI STATO MENOPAUSALE

## Scenario 3

Donna da poco in menopausa in  
trattamento con inibitori  
dell'aromatasi

Come posso  
monitorizzare la  
persistenza dello  
stato menopausale?



# DEFINIZIONI

## **INSUFFICIENZA OVARICA:**

- amenorrea da 3 mesi
- due riscontri in un mese di FSH > 40 UI/L ed Estradiolo (E2) < 10 pg/ml
- età < 40 aa

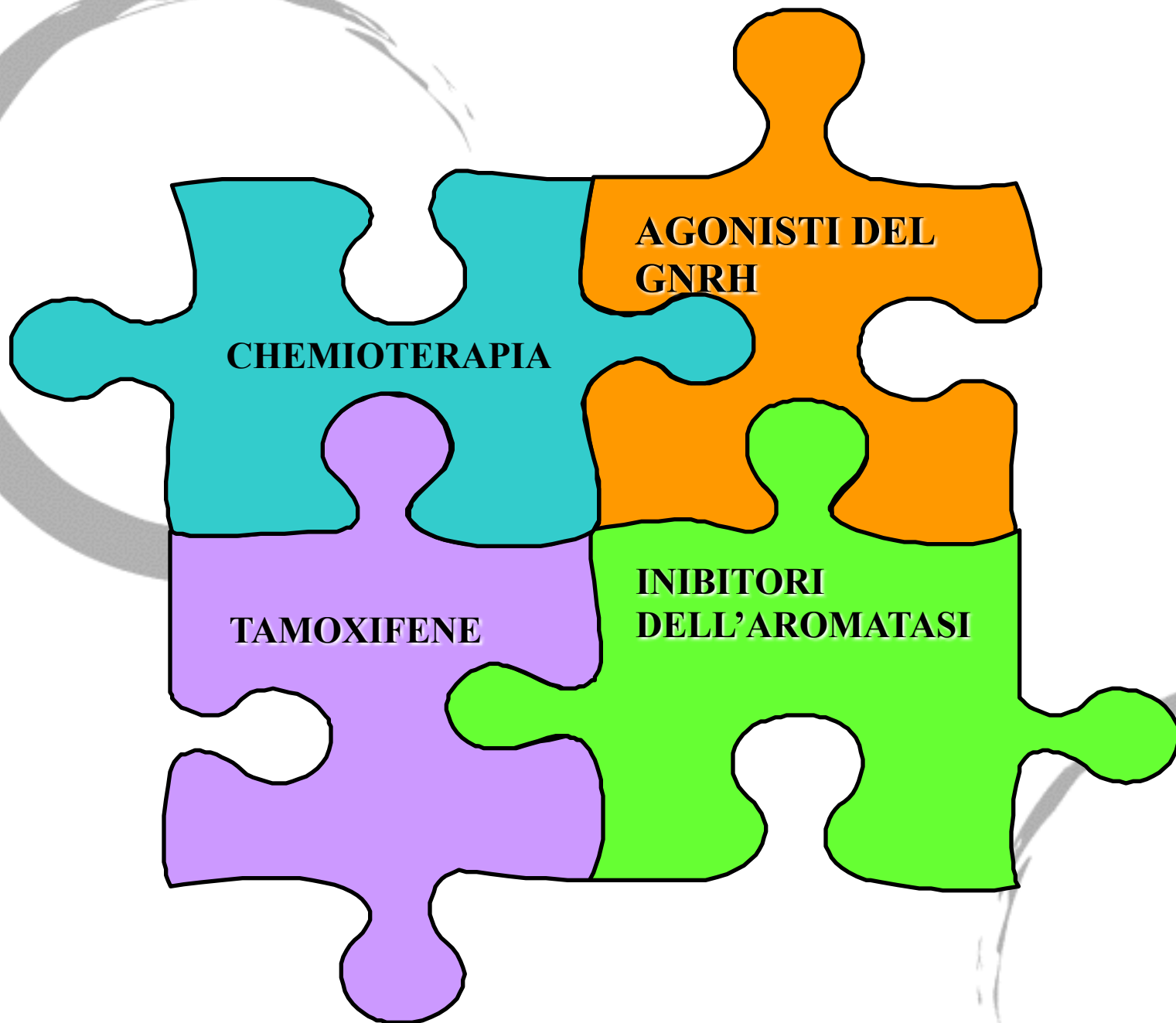
## **AMENORREA SECONDARIA:**

- assenza di flusso mestruale per più di 3 cicli o per 6 mesi
- dosaggi di gonadotropine non indicativi

## **MENOPAUSA (NCCN):**

- annessiectomia bilaterale
- età  $\geq$  60 aa
- età < 60 aa con amenorrea di almeno 12 mesi in assenza di trattamenti adiuvanti e dosaggio di FSH ed E2 in range post-menopausale (FSH > 40 UI/L ed E2 < 10 pg/ml)
- età < 60 aa in donne in trattamento con tamoxifene e dosaggio di FSH ed E2 in range post-menopausale

NON E' POSSIBILE DEFINIRE LO STATO MENOPAUSALE NELLE DONNE IN TRATTAMENTO CON AGONISTI O ANTAGONISTI DEL GNRH



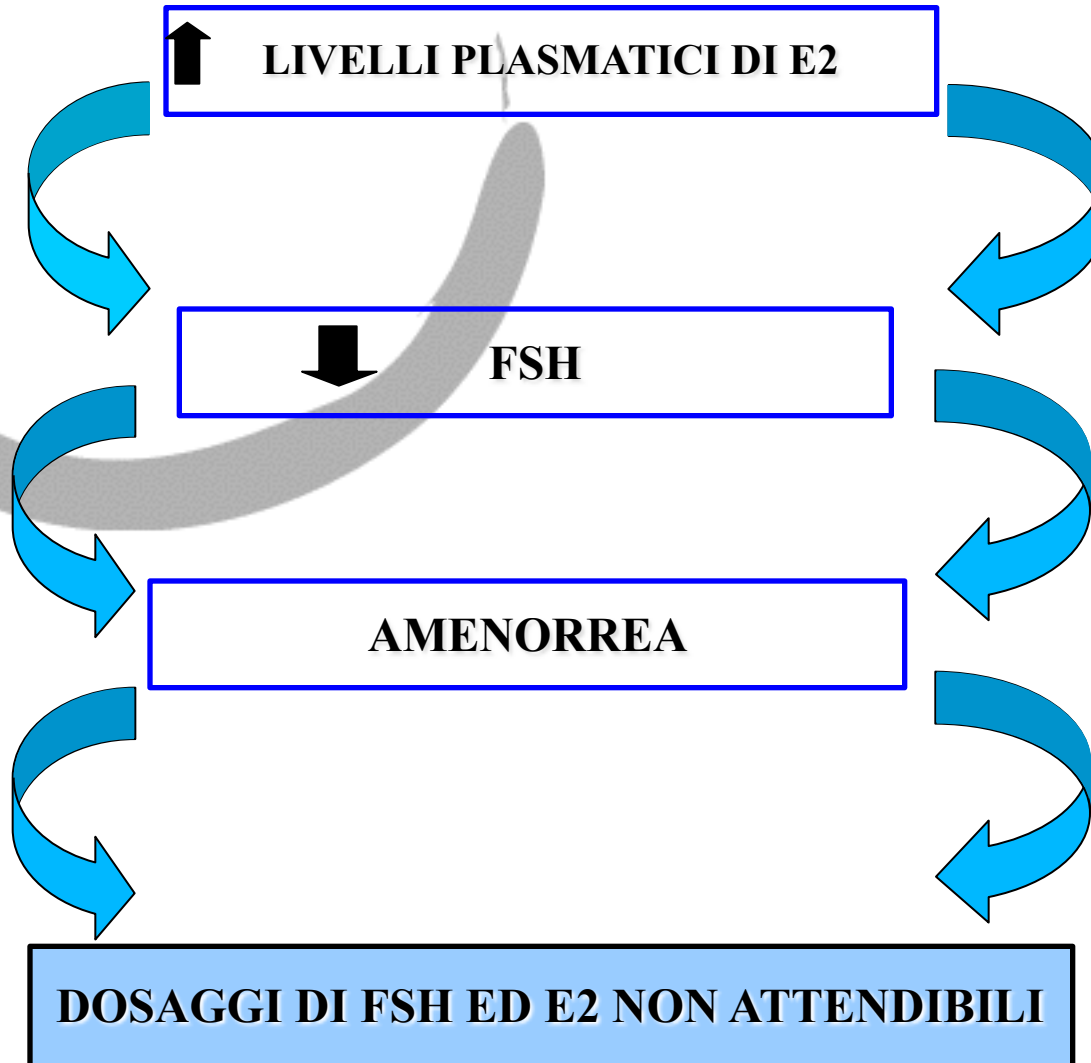
# CHEMIOTERAPIA E MENOPAUSA

Età <40 aa: 22-61%

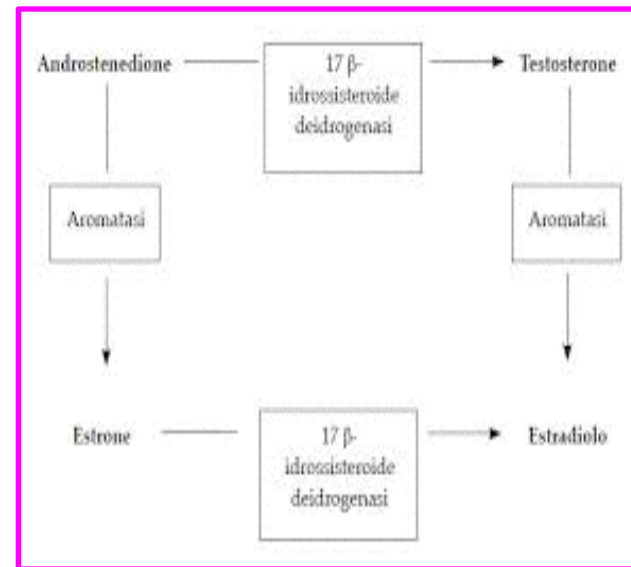
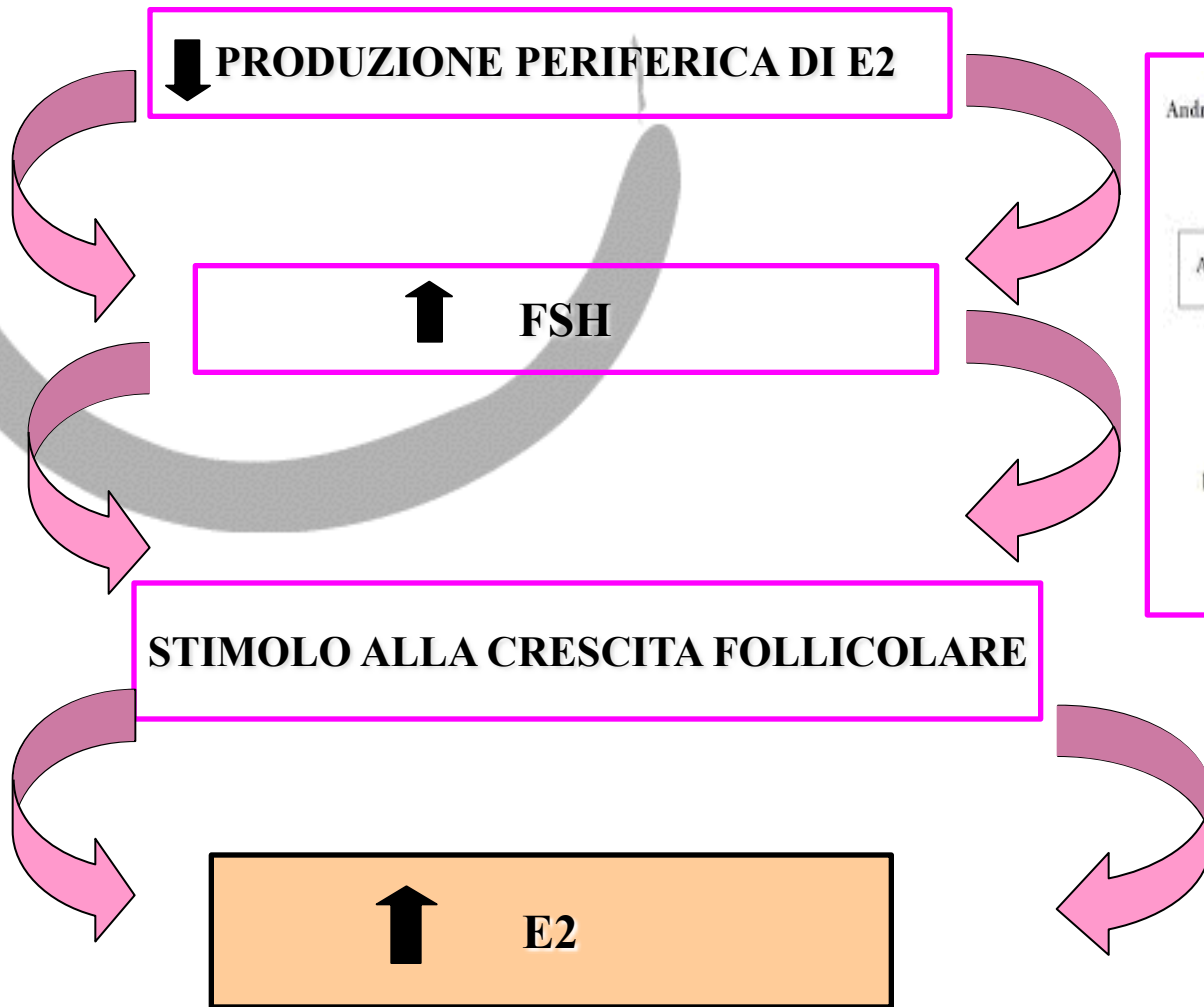
Età >40 aa: 61-97%

Single drug	Adjuvant regimens
<b>High risk (&gt; 80%)</b> Cyclophosphamide Ifosfamide Chlorambucil Melphalan, Busulfan Nitrogen mustard Procarbazine Thiotepa	CMF, FEC and FAC × six cycles in women aged ≥ 40 years
<b>Intermediate risk</b> Cisplatin Carboplatin Adriamycin Taxanes	CMF, FEC and FAC × six cycles in women aged 30–39 years AC and EC × four cycles in women aged ≥ 40 years Taxane-containing combinations
<b>Low risk (&lt; 20%) or no risk</b> Bleomycin Dactinomycin Vincristine Vinblastine Methotrexate Mercaptopurine 5-Fluorouracil To be determined Trastuzumab Lapatinib	CMF, FEC and FAC × six cycles in women aged < 30 years AC and EC × four cycles in women aged < 40 years

# TAMOXIFENE E MENOPAUSA



# INIBITORI DELL'AROMATASI E MENOPAUSA



## Endocrine Effects of Adjuvant Letrozole Compared With Tamoxifen in Hormone-Responsive Postmenopausal Patients With Early Breast Cancer: The HOBEO Trial

Emanuela Rossi, Alessandro Morabito, Francesca Di Rella, Giuseppe Esposito, Adriano Gravina, Vincenzo Labonia, Gabriella Landi, Francesco Nuzzo, Carmen Pacilio, Ermelinda De Maio, Massimo Di Maio, Maria Carmela Piccirillo, Gianfranco De Feo, Giuseppe D'Aiuto, Gerardo Botti, Paolo Chiodini, Ciro Gallo, Francesco Perrone, and Andrea de Matteis

Table 1. Comparisons of Hormonal Levels Between Tamoxifen and Letrozole Groups

Hormone	Baseline Values				P	Change at 6 Months				P	Change at 12 Months				P
	Tamoxifen (n = 43)		Letrozole (n = 96)			Tamoxifen (n = 41)		Letrozole (n = 89)			Tamoxifen (n = 39)		Letrozole (n = 84)		
	Median	Range	Median	Range		Median	Range	Median	Range		Median	Range	Median	Range	
Estradiol, pg/mL	9.7	< 5.0-21.6	9.3	< 5.0-30.9	.80	2.6	-8.2-20.4	-3.2	-23.8-13.4	.0004	2.8	-10.7-16.4	-3.7	-28.4-14.6	< .0001
Progesterone, ng/mL	0.13	< 0.03-0.50	0.20	< 0.03-0.90	.18	0.00	-0.24-0.30	0.04	-0.30-0.50	.029	-0.02	-0.22-0.20	0.05	-0.27-0.33	.009
FSH, mIU/mL	57.9	34.2-131.7	64.9	27.6-158.7	.61	-18.6	-63.7-31.3	6.5	-42.8-61.1	< .0001	-25.8	-85.8-1.5	5.0	-46.4-46.2	< .0001
LH, mIU/mL	28.6	10.2-64.4	30.3	6.2-85.3	.56	-8.3	-29.7-11.1	-2.5	-26.3-35.9	< .0001	-12.0	-30.3-1.3	-3.55	-44.4-20.6	< .0001
Testosterone, ng/mL	0.13	< 0.02-0.51	0.18	< 0.02-0.61	.055	0.03	-0.29-0.4	0.05	-0.34-0.42	.36	0.03	-0.28-0.29	0.06	-0.36-0.42	.40
DHEA-S, μg/dL	59.0	15.8-241.5	68.1	4.2-306.0	.24	10.2	-78.9-100.9	7.2	-126.0-95.1	.71	5.0	-34.8-66.4	6.5	-59.5-159.0	.53
Cortisol, μg/dL	10.2	3.3-21.1	12.1	0.7-83.0	.10	4.6	-8.5-19.2	0.9	-75.2-13.8	< .0001	4.8	-3.0-16.2	0.0	-77.3-11.6	< .0001

Abbreviations: FSH, follicle-stimulating hormone; LH, luteinizing hormone; DHEA-S, dehydroepiandrosterone-sulphate.





ETA'

## **Incidence and predictors of ovarian function recovery (OFR) in breast cancer (BC) patients with chemotherapy-induced amenorrhea (CIA) who switched from tamoxifen to exemestane**

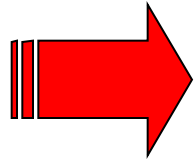
A. Guerrero<sup>1</sup>, J. Gavilá<sup>1</sup>, E. Folkerd<sup>2</sup>, B. Ortiz<sup>3</sup>, F. Martínez<sup>4</sup>, A. García<sup>5</sup>, M. A. Climent<sup>1</sup>, V. Guillem<sup>1</sup> & A. Ruiz<sup>1</sup>

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**Background:** Aromatase inhibitors (AIs) may promote ovarian function recovery (OFR). True incidence, predictors and impact on the outcome of OFR are unknown.

**Patients and methods:** We carried out a prospective study to assess ovarian function in estrogen receptor (ER)-positive BC patients on tamoxifen who had at least 2 years of chemotherapy-induced amenorrhea (CIA) and postmenopausal E2 levels. Patients switched to exemestane and underwent a series of investigations including vaginal ultrasound, antimüllerian hormone, follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), and E2. E2 measurements were made using a clinical assay (direct) and a highly sensitive (indirect) immunoassay for comparison.

**Results:** Both E2 assays (indirect versus direct) showed a similar incidence of OFR 32% (95% CI 19.5–44.5) versus 30% (95% CI 17.7–42.3) and median time to OFR 5.4 months (95% CI 1.2–9.6) versus 6.0 months (95% CI 4.8–7.1). On multivariate analysis, the mean age at the start of exemestane treatment was the only marker associated with probability of OFR (OR: 0.44, 0.24–0.78;  $P=0.006$ ). According to a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis, age <48 years predicted for OFR (sensitivity: 59%; 1-specificity: 17%; AUC: 0.796;  $P=0.001$ ). Patients with OFR had higher mean E2 levels (43.6 versus 5.76 pmol/l;  $P=0.001$ ) and a reduced disease-free survival [DFS; HR 9.3 (95% CI 3.3–48.0;  $P=0.04$ )] than those without it.



**Conclusion:** Even with a clinical and biochemical profile compatible with menopause, switching from tamoxifen to an AI should be avoided in patients <48 with CIA.

**Key words:** amenorrhea/chemically induced, aromatase inhibitor, estradiol/blood, ovarian function

# Adjuvant Aromatase Inhibitors for Early Breast Cancer After Chemotherapy-Induced Amenorrhoea: Caution and Suggested Guidelines

Ian E. Smith, Mitch Dowsett, Yoon-Sim Yap, Geraldine Walsh, Per E. Lønning, Richard J. Santen, and Daniel Hayes

## Purpose

Aromatase inhibitors (AIs) are now established as adjuvant therapy for early hormone receptor-positive breast cancer in postmenopausal women. Their use is sometimes extended to younger women after chemotherapy-induced amenorrhoea; we have audited this in one institution's breast unit, and we propose guidelines for use in such circumstances.

## Patients and Methods

The use of aromatase inhibitors as adjuvant therapy in younger women age  $\geq 40$  with hormone receptor-positive early breast cancer and chemotherapy-induced amenorrhea has been audited clinically and biochemically.

## Results

A total of 45 such women were identified in the audit, with a median age of 47 years (range, 39 to 52 years). Twelve women (27%) showed a return of ovarian function (10 renewed menses, one pregnancy, one biochemically premenopausal) after starting an AI. Median age at restart of ovarian function was 44 years (range, 40 to 50 years).

## Conclusion

AIs may promote recovery of ovarian function in some women with chemotherapy-induced amenorrhea and should be used with caution. Biochemical monitoring of ovarian function requires highly sensitive immunoassays. Guidelines for the selection and delivery of adjuvant endocrine therapy in such patients are proposed.

*J Clin Oncol* 24:2444-2447. © 2006 by American Society of Clinical Oncology



27%

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1

**Età <40 aa**

**No AI (o solo in associazione ad Analoghi del GnRH)**

2

**Età >40 aa e dosaggi non disponibili**

**AI utilizzabili solo con cautela**

3

**Età >40 aa e dosaggi SERIATI di E2 e FSH in range post-menopausale**

**utilizzo di AI appropriato  
MA PROSEGUIRE CON DOSAGGI SERIATI DI FSH ED E2 PER 6 MESI**

4

**Terapia con AI dopo terapia con tamoxifene (late o early switch)**

**DOSAGGI SERIATI DI FSH ED E2 PER OLTRE 6 MESI CON E2 IN PROGRESSIVA RIDUZIONE (FINO A STABILIZZAZIONE <10 pmmol/L)**



**Women of uncertain menopausal status who may be or may become eligible for an adjuvant AI**

**Treatment-naive;  
natural menopausal transition**

**Treatment-induced amenorrhoea**

**Chemotherapy-induced**

**While on tamoxifen**

**Age < 40:  
AI alone is  
contraindicated**

**Age ≥ 40**

**Start with tamoxifen.  
Monitor E2 and FSH every 3-6 months.  
Consider an AI as soon as  
menopausal status is confirmed.**

**If E2 and FSH levels are postmenopausal  
by reliable & valid measure → start AI.  
Monitor hormones at 3, 6 months and  
q 6 months during treatment.**



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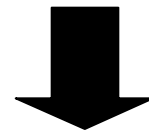
## Scenario 3

Donna da poco in menopausa in trattamento con inibitori dell'aromatasi

Se età > 40 aa e dosaggio di FSH, LH ed E2



FSH >40 UI/L ed E2 <10 pg/ml



Avviare trattamento con AI



Monitoraggio di FSH ed E2 ogni 3 mesi per oltre 6 mesi

# DISCUSSIONE

**SOSPENSIONE DEL  
TAMOXIFENE PER  
EFFETTUARE I DOSAGGI?**

**DOSAGGI BORDERLINE?**

**MONITORAGGIO DI FSH ED E2  
O ANCHE SOLO DI E2?**

**MONITORAGGI DI 6-12 MESI O  
MAGGIORI?**

