



Figure 7: Effect of 5 years or of 10 years of MHT use, starting from age 50 years, on 20-year breast cancer incidence rates

Relevance of MHT use and of adiposity to the absolute 20-year risk of developing breast cancer from ages 50–69 years inclusive, assuming that the relative risks found in the prospective studies would apply to women of average weight in a typical developed country in which the absolute 20-year risk of developing breast cancer in never users is 6.3 per 100 women (appendix pp 17, 18, 24, 25, 26). Results for women of average weight are shown for never users and for various categories of MHT use from age 50 years. A) Effects of 5 years or of 10 years of oestrogen-plus-daily-progestagen MHT. B) Effects of 5 years or of 10 years of oestrogen-plus-intermittent-progestagen MHT. C) Effects of 5 years or of 10 years of oestrogen-only MHT. D) Effects of adiposity among women who never use MHT, comparing those of average weight with those who were lean or obese. MHT=menopausal hormone therapy.