

S14. Temporary Ovarian Suppression in Premenopausal Women at Risk of Breast Cancer

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Temporary ovarian suppression is effective for preventing relapse in premenopausal women with steroid receptor positive breast cancer and epidemiological studies indicate that ovarian ablation prevents breast cancer. Temporary ovarian suppression (2 years or more) is known to be effective in preventing relapse of receptor positive tumours after surgery. We have performed a pilot study of 2 years ovarian suppression with monthly goserelin (3.6mg sc) and daily raloxifene (60mg) to prevent bone loss in women at increased risk (>25% lifetime) of breast cancer. Randomisation was to 2 years treatment or follow up only. The primary endpoint was acceptability of randomisation, the secondary endpoint

compliance with treatment and the tertiary endpoint were tolerability, quality of life and metabolic measures (bones, lipids). Over 70 women age 30-45 have accepted randomisation representing approximately 10% of women approached (Evans et al, Lancet 358: 889, 2001), 17 women have completed 2 years of treatment, 21 have dropped out (toxicity, prophylactic mastectomy) and 36 remain on treatment. Tolerability and quality of life data will be presented. This study demonstrates that a proportion of women agree to randomisation and complete two years of treatment with moderate side effects. However, the feasibility of large trials of this approach to breast cancer prevention is questionable.