

# [Evaluating the use of hormone therapy](https://assignbuster.com/evaluating-the-use-of-hormone-therapy/)

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Running head: CONTROVERSY OVER HORMONE THERAPY Evaluating the Use of Hormone Therapy School Affiliation Evaluating the Use of Hormone Therapy
What Hormone Therapy Is and the Controversy
Is hormone therapy even beneficial? Hormone therapy is used for many types of cancer that is hormone related such as breast and prostrate (Prostrate Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute, 2011). Additionally, it is used for women in menopause to alleviate symptoms or to help prevent osteoporosis (Breast Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute, 2011). It can also be used for sexual reassignment procedures for people who are transgendered (Asscheman, H, Gooren, L. J. G., 1992). These therapies are used to add, block or remove hormones. (Dictionary, National Cancer Institute, 2011). There is controversy on this topic because it has several health risks associated with it but it also has the potential to help people who are oncology patients. Also, the issue of sexual reassignment and its ethical value is also controversial.
My Opinion
I personally think that hormone therapy is like playing God. I do not think we should be messing with peoples hormones to conquer or treat cancer. If there are too many negative side effects, I do not think that people with cancer need to deal with additional side effects. I also do not think the use of hormones to change gender is appropriate nor ethical. If you were supposed to be one gender, you would have been born it. I also think that since menopause is a natural process, you should just deal with it and do not go through an expensive therapy treatment to alleviate the symptoms of it.
The Other View
Alternately, benefits of using hormone therapy include the taking of estrogen or progestin (progesterone in a man-made form) to provide relief for menopausal symptoms. Some of these symptoms that will be alleviated through therapy are hot flashes, dryness, itching and burning in the vaginal area. Additionally, studies show that hormone therapy can help prevent osteoporosis, colorectal cancer and even heart disease (Mayo Clinic Staff, 2010).
According to Stanford Medicine research, hormones can often make cancer cells grow. Other hormones, however, can slow the cancer cell growth or halt it altogether. (Stanford Medicine Cancer Institute, 2011). When it comes to prostrate cancer in men, it is found that the use of hormone therapy in combination with radiation treatment can actually increase the survival rate of a man battling prostrate cancer. Approximately 66 percent of men have increased survival rate as a result of using hormone therapy to help treat prostrate cancer. When adding radiation, this rate jumps to a 74 percent lifespan increase (Warde, P., Manson, M. Ding, K., 2011). Therefore, the benefits help to extend the patients life. In women, drugs are used to inhibit the body from creating estrogen or to block hormones which will aid in the treatment of breast cancer. Estrogen promotes the growth of breast cancer cells so it is important to find a way to halt its production. Hormone therapy allows for this. Some of the drugs and hormones used in hormone therapy include estrogen or progestin, which is a man-made form of progesterone (American Cancer Society, 2011).
In addition to being a cancer treatment, hormone therapy also is used to transform people who have gender identity issues either from male to female with the use of feminizing hormones or from female to male with masculine hormones. The use of hormone therapy for this in male to female transgender change creates breasts, changes the growth of body hair, makes the voice a higher pitch, distributes fat differently, decreases muscle mass and shrinks testicles over time and for women changing into men, it is just the opposite. (Bushong, C., 2011).
As this research has established, there are pros and cons to hormone therapy. It is in some ways, playing God, particularly during sexual reassignment treatments. It is, though rather risky, also beneficial as treatments to aid in cancer cessation and recovery but also in prevention. Risks certainly may outweigh the benefits but it is still being used as a method to help treat this disease. Research of the use of hormone therapy is constantly in the works but has deemed to have helped some people in their battles against cancer.
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