Menopausal hormone therapy tied to less pronounced kyphosis

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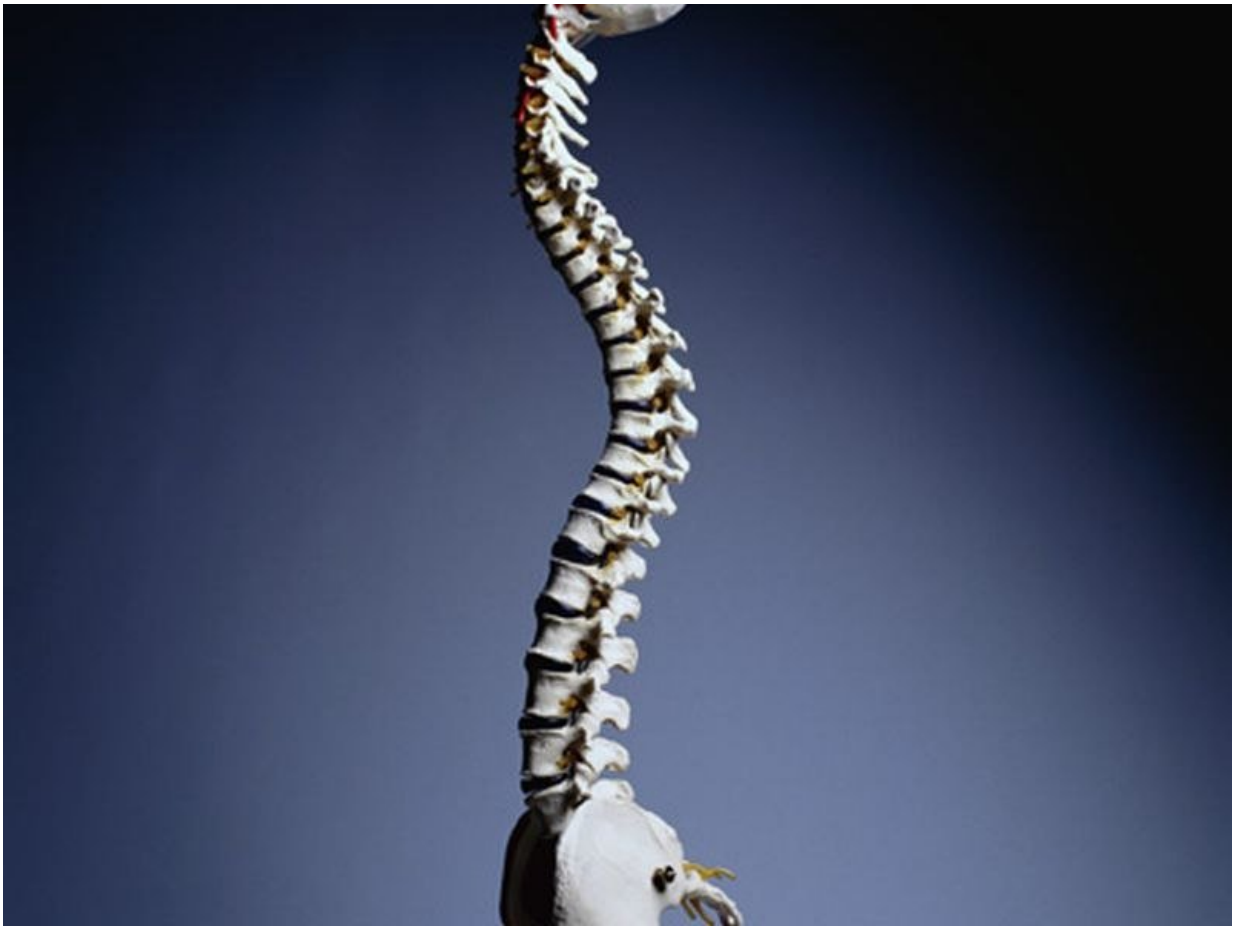

(HealthDay)—Menopausal hormone therapy (HT) use is associated with

less pronounced kyphosis compared with never-use, according to a study published online Feb. 16 in *Menopause*.

Gina N. Woods, M.D., from the University of California in San Diego, and colleagues examined the correlation between Cobb angle of kyphosis from lateral spine radiographs and pattern of self-reported HT use during the previous 15 years. Data were included for 1,063 women from the Study of Osteoporotic Fractures.

Participants were characterized as never-users of HT (46 percent), remote past users (24 percent), intermittent users (17 percent), and continuous users (12 percent). The researchers found that, compared with never-users of HT, continuous users had a mean Cobb angle that was 4.0 degrees less, in minimally-adjusted models (P = 0.01); in fully-adjusted models, the correlation was attenuated to 2.8 degrees (P = 0.06). Compared with never-users, remote past HT users had 3.0 degrees less kyphosis, in minimally-adjusted models (P = 0.01); the correlation was attenuated to 2.8 degrees less kyphosis in fully-adjusted models (P = 0.02). There was no difference in the degree of kyphosis for intermittent users versus never-users.

"Women reporting continuous or remote past HT use had less pronounced kyphosis than never-users by their mid-eighties, suggesting a possible role for HT in the prevention of age-related hyperkyphosis," the authors write.

More information: Abstract/Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)

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