

# Extended tamoxifen therapy may increase risk of endometrial cancer

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There is clear evidence that extended adjuvant tamoxifen therapy for 10 years reduces local recurrence and improves breast cancer-free survival in women with oestrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. An analysis of large randomized controlled trials, however, reveals that extended use is linked with a two-fold increased risk of developing endometrial (womb) cancer, when compared with standard 5 years of tamoxifen.

While more research is needed, the *BJS (British Journal of Surgery)* findings suggest that screening for endometrial cancer may be warranted in patients who receive extended [tamoxifen therapy](#).

"There is a paucity of clear evidence on how we should best manage endometrial cancer risk in extended [tamoxifen](#) therapy. This is a research area that requires immediate focus with expansion of extended tamoxifen therapy regimes," said lead author Dr. Christina Fleming, of St. Vincent's Hospital Group, in Dublin, Ireland.

**More information:** C. A. Fleming et al, Meta-analysis of the cumulative risk of endometrial malignancy and systematic review of endometrial surveillance in extended tamoxifen therapy, *British Journal of Surgery* (2018). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10899](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10899)

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