

Hormone therapy shown to reduce effects of nocturia in postmenopausal women

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As women age, they are more likely to wake up in the middle of the night to pass urine. The loss of estrogen during the menopause transition accelerates this problem, which is known as nocturia. A new study evaluated the effectiveness of different hormone therapies in managing the frequency of nocturia. Study results are published online today in *Menopause*.

The loss of [estrogen](#) during menopause has been shown to create bladder dysfunction, [sleep disorders](#), hot flashes, and alterations in renal water and salt handling, all of which result in higher diuresis overnight. To date, there has been little research done regarding the effect of hormone therapy on nocturia, even though hormone therapy has been proven to improve the causative factors of postmenopausal nocturia such as sleep disorders, [obstructive sleep apnea](#), and hot flashes.

Vaginal estrogen has already been shown to help manage the various symptoms of the genitourinary syndrome of menopause, especially with regard to improving urinary function. However, little was known about the effect of systemic treatment. In addition, there is some limited evidence suggesting significant benefits of using oral estrogen in combination with oral progesterone, but nothing is known about the effects of other hormone combinations or the newer tissue-selective estrogen complex (TSEC) on nocturia.

In this new study involving nearly 250 women, participants were divided into four treatment groups: estrogen and progesterone (E+P); estrogen

only in patients with prior hysterectomies; TSEC; and no treatment. The study concluded that systemic treatment with either E+P or TSEC led to a significant reduction in nocturia prevalence and significant improvement of bothersome symptoms in women with two or more nocturnal voids. The use of estrogen only resulted in a significant reduction in urgency prevalence.

Researchers believe that additional research should be conducted to better understand the underlying pathophysiologic triggers.

Results are published in the article "Hormone therapy as a positive solution for [postmenopausal women](#) with nocturia: results of a pilot trial."

"This [pilot study](#) shows a significant reduction in the prevalence and bother associated with nocturia in postmenopausal women using systemic [hormone](#) therapy. Although additional study is needed, this finding appears to be primarily related to improvements in sleep quality," says Dr. Stephanie Faubion, NAMS medical director.

Provided by The North American Menopause Society

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