

**GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE & HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH CASE
CONFERENCE TEACHING MODULE**

MENOPAUSE – Part 2

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CASE 3

M.O. coming for new patient visit, has a history of breast cancer diagnosed 2 years ago, i.e. at age 45. She takes tamoxifen. Having heard Dr. Pregler's lecture on the care of the breast cancer survivor, you make a point of asking her about certain key symptoms. She says, now that she thinks about it, she wonders if tamoxifen could be causing hot flashes?

Does tamoxifen cause hot flashes? What are her non-estrogen options for hot flashes? In what does? What are their side effects? Which of these is probably the most effective?

As you are doing her pap smear, you note that she no evidence of epithelial pallor, friability, or loss of rugae. Does this exclude a diagnosis of atrophic vaginitis? What are the symptoms of atrophic vaginitis?

Is a low-dose vaginal estradiol ring safe for breast cancer survivors? What are her non-estrogen options for atrophic vaginitis symptoms?