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The Effects of Adjuvant Hormonal Therapy on Lipids and Atherosclerosis

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The role of adjuvant hormonal therapy with tamoxifen and/or aromatase inhibitors (AIs) is well established in women with hormone receptor positive early breast cancer. However, there has been increasing attention to the impact of long-term endocrine treatments on metabolic consequences, including derangement of lipid metabolism with increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Not surprisingly, women on endocrine

therapy have significantly lower levels of estradiol, an important regulator of endothelial function and this may induce higher level of oxidative stress, a proinflammatory profile, and the increased formation of atherosclerotic plaque. We have investigated the effects of aromatase inhibitors and/or tamoxifen on lipids, fatty liver and carotid atherosclerosis.