
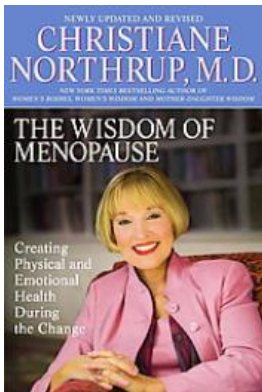


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Christine Northrup, MD, on Progesterone

Can progesterone help breast cancer patients?
Read how Christine Northrup, MD, summarizes the answer in her book, *The Wisdom Of Menopause*.

[Progesterone Bibliography 1](#)

[Bioidentical Hormone Replacement Compared with other HRT](#)

Book excerpt

Progesterone Preparations and Progesterone Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer

One of the questions I'm frequently asked is whether a woman whose breast cancer has tested positive for progesterone receptors can safely take progesterone. There is a great deal of confusion about what it means to have a breast biopsy that shows that the tumor is positive for progesterone receptors, especially in those women who have been using bioidentical progesterone at the time of their diagnosis.

Here are the facts. All breast cancers that are positive for progesterone receptors are also estrogen receptor-positive. Because estrogen is known to stimulate growth of these types of cancer cells, many people automatically assume that progesterone must do the same. Just the opposite is true. Positive progesterone receptors indicate that a cancer is receptive to the balancing and anti-cancer effects of progesterone.

To understand this apparent paradox, remember that hormones in the bloodstream and the fluid surrounding cells work by uniting with receptors on the surface of the cell. The hormone fits the receptor like a key in a lock. If the right receptor is there, the hormone message makes its way to the chromosomes and turns on the appropriate gene to produce a specific cellular effect. Progesterone signals the cell to stop multiplying, while estrogen signals the opposite. For that reason, bioidentical progesterone is probably beneficial for women with progesterone receptor-positive breast cancer.

In general, women with estrogen- and progesterone-positive breast tumors have a good prognosis, since the presence of these receptors means that the tumor is very well differentiated and slower growing than more poorly differentiated tumors.

Though I'm convinced that bioidentical progesterone is safe and even beneficial for women with estrogen- and progesterone-positive breast cancers, this is a controversial area. Use your inner guidance and consult with your doctor."

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