“Endometrial Cancer in Postmenopausal Women Using Estradiol–Progestin Therapy”  
(Jaakkola S, Lyytinen H, Pukkala E, Ylikorkala O)  
Click Here to Read the Full Article

1. What type of study design was employed by the authors? Discuss the differences between a cohort study, a trohoc study, and a nested case-control study.

2. Review the criteria the authors used to identify exposure to the various hormone therapies. Have the authors convinced you that the women actually took the prescribed medication? Discuss the potential for varying rates of compliance among the treatments. Which methods, if any, might have lower compliance rates than other methods?

3. Explain the method of estimating standardized incidence rates (SIR). Were the women who used hormone therapy also represented in the population used to generate expected cancer rates? How does this affect the SIR? Were Finnish women who had hysterectomies included in the population used to generate expected cancer rates? How does this affect the SIR?

4. How was the diagnosis of endometrial cancer made? How could the authors have made a more compelling case that the affected women actually had endometrial cancer?

5. Use Table 1 to calculate the age-specific incidence of endometrial cancer for hormone therapy users with a known use history and compare with the age-specific incidence for all users of hormone therapy. Develop testable hypotheses that may explain any observed differences.

6. Discuss how hormone therapy changed between 1994 and 2006. Can these changes bias these data? Why or why not?

7. Review the UpToDate section, “Postmenopausal Hormone Therapy: Benefits and Risks.” How, if at all, would you edit the section on endometrial hyperplasia and carcinoma?