

Letter to the Editor

Reply to the letter to the editor 'European cancer mortality predictions for the year 2019 with focus on breast cancer, by Malvezzi M et al' by Marsden and Hamoda, On behalf of the British Menopause Society Medical Advisory Council

We agree with Dr Marsden and Dr Hamoda that the key determinant of the declines in breast cancer mortality across Europe has been improved management, including essentially better treatments, together with early diagnosis and organized screening [1].

We only mentioned in two lines a possible role of decrease in menopausal hormone use on national breast cancer rates [2]. Indeed, changes in hormonal replacement therapy (HRT) use had a relevant impact on incidence, but their influence on mortality is limited and not adequately quantified [3, 4].

Still, despite the better prognosis of breast cancer diagnosed in women using HRT [5], some rises in breast cancer incidence may well translate to an increase of mortality, though smaller than that of incidence. This remains unquantified, but in agreement with Dr Marsden and Dr Hamoda, is likely to have a limited impact as compared to the improvements in breast cancer management over the last few decades [6].

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Disclosure

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