

Health Care Practitioner Refutes Progesterone Study, Says it Irresponsibly Causes Alarm Among Women

PORTLAND, Ore.—(March 26, 2004)—A study released March 25 by Bassett Healthcare attempting to link natural progesterone cream with diseases thought to be caused by synthetic hormone replacement therapy (HRT), is “just plain irresponsible and wrong,” said Jane Murray, M.D., a specialist in women’s healthcare and founder and medical director of the Sastun Center of Integrative Health Care in Mission, Kansas.

Anne Hermann, a medical doctor linked to Bassett Healthcare, presented study findings today on progesterone cream to the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics in Miami Beach.

“A news release issued March 25 by Dr. Hermann is blatantly alarming and incorrect. Natural progesterone cream has never been tested in major studies of synthetic HRT, like the highly respected Women’s Health Initiative study. Dr. Hermann’s news release tries to connect natural progesterone cream with the findings in those major studies, which is completely wrong.” Dr. Murray said.

“Apparently the scientists who conducted this research are not aware of the huge differences physiologically between identical progesterone and synthetic, laboratory-created progestins, like Provera®, which was implicated in the WHI studies,” she said.

Dr. Murray also noted that synthetic progestin does not show up as progesterone in the blood tests.

Dr. Murray said there have been no studies to date that document harm to women from real progesterone.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Murray received her B.A. cum laude and her medical degree at the University of California, Los Angeles and completed her residency at Santa Monica Hospital Medical Center in Family Practice. She is certified by the American Board of Family Practice, has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Geriatrics and is certified by the American Board of Holistic Medicine. She also is a clinical professor of Family

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