Thought Lab 14.4: Therapy Options for Menopause

Purpose: Researching and assessing the medical use of reproductive hormones and their effects

Procedure

1. Using print or Internet resources, research two or three different kinds of therapies available to women who want to alleviate the symptoms of menopause.
2. For each of the therapies you are studying, gather information about
   - how the treatment affects cells and tissues in the body
   - how the treatment affects hormone feedback systems
   - any known health risks and benefits
3. Organize the information you have gathered. Create a short report or presentation to summarize and communicate your findings.

Analysis

1. Based on your research, is it possible to claim that one of these therapies is better than the others?

2. Many people argue that women should never have been prescribed hormone replacement therapy in the years before the NIH study was completed. Do you agree? What, if anything, should health practitioners and pharmaceutical companies have done differently?

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