

**LUCIO OMAR CARMIGNANI**

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**FITOESTROGÊNIOS COMO ALIMENTO FUNCIONAL NO  
TRATAMENTO DA SÍNDROME CLIMATÉRICA: ENSAIO  
CLÍNICO RANDOMIZADO DUPLO-CEGO E CONTROLADO**

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**Dissertação de Mestrado**

**ORIENTADORA: PROFA. DRA. ADRIANA ORCESI PEDRO**

**Unicamp  
2008**

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Dissertação de Mestrado apresentada à  
Pós-Graduação da Faculdade de Ciências  
Médicas da Universidade Estadual de  
Campinas para obtenção do Título de  
Mestre em Tocoginecologia, área de  
Tocoginecologia

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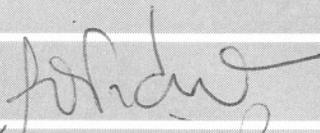
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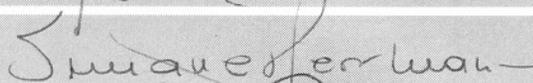
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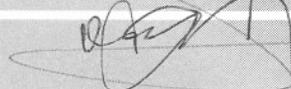
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# Sumário

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<b>Símbolos, Siglas e Abreviaturas</b> .....	<b>xv</b>
<b>Resumo</b> .....	<b>xvii</b>
<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>xix</b>
<b>1. Introdução</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>2. Objetivos</b> .....	<b>33</b>
2.1. Objetivo Geral .....	33
2.2. Objetivos Específicos .....	33
<b>3. Publicações</b> .....	<b>34</b>
3.1. Artigo 1.....	34
3.2. Artigo 2.....	34
<b>4. Discussão</b> .....	<b>96</b>
<b>5. Conclusões</b> .....	<b>109</b>
<b>6. Referências Bibliográficas</b> .....	<b>110</b>
<b>7. Anexos</b> .....	<b>122</b>
7.1. Anexo 1 – Randomização aleatorizada .....	122
7.2. Ficha de Coleta de Dados .....	123
7.3. Anexo 3 - Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido .....	133
7.4. Anexo 4 - Parecer do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa da Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da UNICAMP .....	136

7.5. Anexo 5- Parecer da Comissão de Pesquisa do Departamento de Tocoginecologia da Unicamp .....	137
7.6. Anexo 6- Parecer do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa do Hospital Maternidade Leonor Mendes de Barros .....	138
7.7. Anexo 7- Envio do artigo 1 .....	139
7.8. Anexo 8- Envio do artigo 2 .....	140

# **Símbolos, Siglas e Abreviaturas**

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<b>ANVISA</b>	Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária
<b>CAISM</b>	Centro de Atenção Integral à Saúde da Mulher
<b>BMI</b>	<i>Body Mass Index</i>
<b>CI</b>	<i>Confiance Interval</i>
<b>FDA</b>	<i>Food and Drug Admnistration</i>
<b>FSH</b>	Hormônio Folículo-Estimulante
<b>HDL</b>	Lipoproteína de Alta Densidade
<b>HT</b>	<i>Hormone Terapy</i>
<b>HMLMB</b>	Hospital Maternidade Leonor Mendes de Barros
<b>IMC</b>	Índice de Massa Corpórea
<b>IMS</b>	<i>Internacional Menopause Society</i>
<b>LDL</b>	Lipoproteína de Baixa Densidade
<b>NAMS</b>	<i>North American Menopause Society</i>
<b>SD</b>	<i>Standard Deviation</i>

<b>SOBRAC</b>	Sociedade Brasileira do Climatério
<b>SWAN</b>	<i>Women's Health Across the Nation</i>
<b>UNICAMP</b>	Univesidade Estadual de Campinas
<b>WHI</b>	<i>Women Health's Initiative</i>

# Resumo

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**Objetivos:** Comparar os efeitos da ingestão diária de um suplemento alimentar à base de soja, terapia hormonal (TH) de baixa dosagem e placebo sobre os sintomas menopausais psicológicos, somáticos e urogenitais em mulheres na pós-menopausa e avaliar os efeitos sobre os principais marcadores de risco cardiovascular. **Métodos:** Ensaio clínico randomizado, duplo-cego e controlado envolvendo 60 mulheres sintomáticas com tempo médio desde a menopausa de 4,1 anos, com idade entre 40 e 60 anos. Foram selecionadas e randomizadas em três grupos: um grupo recebeu um suplemento alimentar à base de soja (isoflavona 90mg/dia), outro grupo recebeu terapia hormonal de baixa dose (estradiol 1mg e acetato de noretisterona 0,5mg) e um grupo-controle que recebeu placebo, por um período de 16 semanas. Foi utilizado o Menopause Rating Scale (MRS) para avaliar as mudanças nos sintomas climatéricos no início e após 16 semanas de tratamento. Também foram avaliados o perfil lipídico, glicemia, índice de massa corpórea, pressão arterial e relação cintura-quadril em todas as participantes no início e final do tratamento. Com o intuito de avaliar os efeitos deste tratamento sobre os níveis hormonais endógenos, foi medida a concentração sérica do hormônio folículo-estimulante (FSH) e o 17 $\beta$ -estradiol. A análise estatística foi realizada usando-se o teste do

qui-quadrado, teste exato de Fisher, análise de co-variância, teste não paramétrico de Kruskal-Wallis, teste t de Student pareado, teste de Kruskal-Wallis (seguido por Mann-Whitney), teste de Wilcoxon pareado, teste ANOVA (seguido de Tukey) e teste não paramétrico de Kruskal-Wallis (seguido de Mann-Whitney). **Resultados:** os resultados mostraram uma diminuição da pontuação do MRS total, comparando-se o início e o final do tratamento em todos os grupos, não havendo diferença estatística entre eles. Houve uma melhora significativa dos sintomas somáticos (fogachos e queixas articulares/musculares) e urogenitais (secura vaginal) nos grupos TH e soja. Em relação aos sintomas psicológicos, não houve diferença entre os grupos estudados: todos apresentaram uma melhora semelhante. Após 16 semanas de intervenção, o colesterol total diminuiu em 11,3% e o LDL-colesterol diminuiu 18,6% apenas no grupo TH. As triglicérides, HDL-colesterol, glicemia, índice de massa corpórea, pressão arterial, e relação cintura-quadril não se alteraram durante o tratamento nos três grupos. O FSH diminuiu e o 17 $\beta$ -estradiol aumentou apenas no grupo TH. **Conclusões:** Este estudo sugere que o tratamento com suplemento alimentar à base de soja pode ser uma terapia alternativa efetiva para os sintomas somáticos e urogenitais relacionados à menopausa. O suplemento alimentar à base de soja não mostrou efeito favorável significativo sobre os marcadores de risco cardiovascular quando comparados ao uso da TH.

**Palavras-chave:** Menopausa – Soja – Menopause Rating Scale – Ensaio clínico randomizado e controlado – Terapia hormonal – Perfil lipídico – Marcadores de risco cardiovascular – Fitoestrogênios.

# Summary

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**Objectives:** To compare the effects of daily ingestion of soy dietary supplement, low-dose hormone therapy (HT) and placebo on menopausal psychological, somatic and urogenital symptoms in postmenopausal women and to assess the effects on the main biomarkers of cardiovascular health. **Methods:** This was a double-blind, randomized and controlled intention-to-treat trial. Sixty healthy postmenopausal women, aged 40-60, 4.1 years mean time since menopause were recruited and randomly assigned to three groups: a soy dietary supplement group (isoflavone 90mg/day), a low-dose HT group (estradiol 1mg plus noretisterone acetate 0.5mg) and a placebo group. The Menopause Rating Scale (MRS) was used to assess change in menopausal symptoms at baseline and after 16 weeks of treatment. Lipid profile, glucose level, body mass index, blood pressure and abdominal/hip ratio were evaluated in all the participants at the baseline and after 16 weeks. To examine the effects of this regime on endogenous hormone levels, follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol were measured. Statistical analyses were performed using chi-square test, Fisher's exact test, repeated-measures analysis of co-variance, Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test, paired Student's t test, Kruskal-Wallis test (followed by Mann-Whitney test), paired Wilcoxon test, ANOVA test (followed by Tukey

test) and Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test (followed by Mann-Whitney test).

**Results:** The data showed decrease in MRS total score comparing baseline values and after 16 weeks in all of the groups, but without statistical difference among the groups. There was significant improvement in somatic (hot flashes and joint/muscle complaints) and urogenital (vaginal dryness) symptoms from baseline to after 16 weeks for both the HT and soy groups, compared with the placebo group. There was no difference among the studied groups concerning psychological symptoms: all three groups showed a similar improvement. After a 16 weeks intervention period, total cholesterol decreased 11.3% and LDL-cholesterol decreased 18.6% in HT group, but in the soy dietary supplement and placebo groups it did not change. The values for triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol, glucose level, body mass index, blood pressure, and abdominal/hip ratio did not change over the time in all of the three groups. FSH decreased and  $17\beta$ -estradiol increased only in the HT group. **Conclusions:** This study suggests that a soy dietary supplement may be an effective alternative therapy for somatic and urogenital symptoms. The use of dietary soy supplement did not show a significant favorable effect on cardiovascular health biomarkers comparing with HT.

**Key-words:** Menopause – Soy – Menopause Rating Scale – Randomized, controlled trial – Hormone therapy - Lipid profile – Cardiovascular health – Phytoestrogens

# 1. Introdução

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A menopausa, um evento fisiológico natural, é definida como a completa cessação da menstruação resultante da perda da atividade folicular ovariana (Utian, 1999). A menopausa natural é reconhecida pelo menos após 12 meses de amenorréia, para a qual não há qualquer outra causa evidente fisiológica ou patológica (Hargrove e Eisenberg, 1995; Dog et al., 2001). O climatério é a fase marcada pela transição da fase reprodutiva para a não reprodutiva, quando ocorrem as alterações endócrinas, clínicas e relativas à fertilidade (Soules et al., 2001; Baracat, 2005).

Durante a 4<sup>ª</sup> e 5<sup>ª</sup> décadas de vida existe um declínio progressivo da função endócrina ovariana, levando ao hipoestrogenismo e ao aparecimento de sintomas em curto prazo, como os sintomas vasomotores e sintomas da esfera psicoemocional - as alterações de humor, depressão, distúrbios do sono, fadiga e diminuição da libido. Em médio prazo podem ocorrer sintomas urogenitais decorrentes da atrofia (Melo, 2000).

O tratamento medicamentoso mais comum para estes sintomas climatéricos é a terapia hormonal (TH), que inclui diferentes combinações de

hormônios em diferentes vias de administração e diferentes dosagens (SOBRAC, 2004; Pines et al., 2007). A terapia hormonal é de grande importância em longo prazo para tratamento do hipoestrogenismo, que pode causar conseqüências danosas como osteoporose e doenças cardiovasculares, que se manifestam ou se agravam neste período da vida, sendo que a I Diretriz Brasileira sobre Prevenção de Doenças Cardiovasculares em Mulheres Climatéricas não a recomenda com finalidade exclusiva de reduzir o risco de doenças cardiovasculares, porém relata que há evidências de benefícios cardiovasculares quando é iniciada no período apropriado (Fernandes et al., 2008). O conhecimento atual sobre a TH mostra expressivos benefícios, incluindo não só o alívio dos sintomas climatéricos mas uma redução significativa da morbimortalidade por várias doenças, como a osteoporose (Aldrighi e Pires, 2001; NAMS, 2007).

A TH apresenta aceitação multidisciplinar e avanços técnicos de relevância a cada ano no que diz respeito aos aspectos farmacológicos e clínicos (Grinbaum et al., 2000). Entretanto, pode apresentar alguns riscos e efeitos colaterais como o possível aumento na incidência do câncer de mama, sangramento uterino e eventos tromboembólicos (Rang et al., 1997; Rossouw et al., 2002). A publicação do estudo Women Health's Initiative (WHI) foi divisor de águas do curso da terapia hormonal, fazendo com que suscitasse pesquisas no campo da terapia hormonal tradicional e abrisse mais espaço para estudos sobre tratamentos alternativos para alívio dos sintomas do climatério (Rossouw et al., 2002).

Apesar dos benefícios da TH, estudos estimam que somente 10% a 35% das mulheres na pós-menopausa fazem uso desta terapia e metade daquelas que iniciam a TH interrompem o tratamento no período de um ano. As causas mais citadas são sangramento irregular (Natchingal, 1990), medo de câncer (Zichella, et al., 1996) ou doença tromboembólica e ganho de peso (Stumpf e Trolice, 1994). Soma-se a parcela de aproximadamente 10% das mulheres que têm contra-indicações para TH (Notelovitz, 1989; Kessel, 1998). Um estudo recente com 230 participantes mostrou que 70% das mulheres que optaram por medicações fitoterápicas no climatério ao invés da terapia hormonal tradicional, o fizeram por medo do desenvolvimento do câncer (Lima et al., 2008). Pacientes de risco para estas doenças poderiam se beneficiar de alguns tratamentos farmacológicos não-hormonais, que mesmo não tendo eficácia igual à da terapia estrogênica ou estro-progestativa, causaria alívio de forma importante nos sintomas do climatério (Grinbaum et al., 2000; Huntley e Ernst, 2003). Vários tratamentos farmacológicos não hormonais têm sido estudados para o controle da síndrome climatérica em pacientes com contra-indicações para a terapia hormonal ou que não desejam fazer uso da mesma. Dentre estes tratamentos, um dos mais utilizados e que tem mostrado significante melhora seria o uso dos antidepressivos, principalmente os da classe dos inibidores da recaptção de serotonina (Carroll, 2006; Nelson et al., 2006; Bordelau et al., 2007).

É crescente a procura por terapias alternativas e não hormonais, tanto em nosso meio quanto mundialmente. Estima-se que mais da metade das

mulheres americanas procuram algum tipo de tratamento alternativo para seus problemas relacionados à menopausa, principalmente após o WHI, que fez com que o uso da TH diminuísse drasticamente e também com que apenas uma minoria reiniciasse seu uso (Gold et al., 2007; Newton et al., 2008). O Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN) é um estudo prospectivo com um grupo de 3.302 mulheres com seguimento de seis anos, onde 80% usam alguma forma de terapia alternativa. Neste estudo foram avaliados 21 tipos de terapia alternativa, dentre eles o uso da isoflavona de soja, que é um dos tratamentos alternativos mais estudados onde os autores notaram que a preferência pessoal deve ser levada em consideração pelos profissionais de saúde para se tomar a decisão terapêutica, pois o tipo de terapia alternativa usada durante a menopausa é gerido pela experiência pessoal, estado de saúde na menopausa e acesso a serviço de saúde (Gold et al., 2007; Bair et al., 2008;).

Os grãos de soja (*Glycine max, L*) são consumidos pelos povos asiáticos há quase dois milênios e estudos japoneses mostram que a intensidade dos sintomas vasomotores é inversamente proporcional ao consumo de soja na dieta (Nagata et al., 2001). Entretanto, o Ocidente iniciou seu uso somente na segunda metade do século XIX, coincidindo com a migração chinesa para os EUA. Atualmente a América do Sul - particularmente o Brasil -, EUA e Noroeste da Europa somam 90% da produção mundial de soja. Inicialmente o valor nutricional da soja foi atribuído ao seu alto teor de proteína de boa qualidade, mas nos dias de hoje se sabe que os grãos de soja são ótima fonte de

fitoquímicos, que apresentam importantes efeitos benéficos para a saúde, o que lhe confere a denominação de alimento funcional (Barnes, 1998).

O alimento funcional pode ser definido como o alimento convencional ou similar a este em aparência, consumido como parte da dieta normal, que apresenta efeitos fisiológicos benéficos e/ou reduz o risco de doenças crônicas, além de suas funções nutricionais básicas (Fitzpatrick, 2001).

Embora a soja tenha sido considerada um alimento com propriedades funcionais, capaz de reduzir o colesterol, de acordo com o Food and Drug Administration (FDA), que recomenda 25g/dia da proteína de soja, como componente de uma dieta pobre em gordura saturada e colesterol, para redução do risco cardiovascular (FDA, 1999; Erdman, 2000), a Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária (ANVISA) não regulamentou qualquer suplemento alimentar à base de isoflavona, principalmente os derivados da soja. Isto porque relatos de pesquisa têm indicado que grande parte dos produtos derivados da soja desenvolvidos pelas indústrias apresenta isoflavonas em formas e quantidades variáveis, indicando a falta de controle efetivo da matéria-prima e dificultando a padronização de concentração de isoflavona contida nestes produtos. Portanto, do ponto de vista da ANVISA, as isoflavonas são consideradas medicamentos, com obrigatoriedade de registro, não se enquadrando na legislação brasileira de alimentos, conforme Resolução nº 2989, de 18 de novembro de 2005.

Dentre os fitoquímicos da soja importantes para a saúde, os fitoestrogênios são os mais estudados e entre estes se destacam a isoflavona e define-se como fitoestrogênios os componentes não esteroidais, derivados de plantas possuidoras de atividade estrogênica (Unfer et al., 2004). Com base em suas estruturas químicas eles podem ser divididos em quatro grupos principais: isoflavonóides, flavonóides, cumestranos e lignanas (Strauss et al., 1998).

As isoflavonas são os principais fitoestrogênios e são encontradas basicamente na soja e seus derivados. Entretanto, o conteúdo de isoflavonas dos grãos de soja muda com a variedade, local e estação do ano (Dwyer et al., 1994).

As isoflavonas são componentes intrínsecos das plantas e pertencem à família dos polifenóis, os quais apresentam, além de atividade antioxidante, atividade estrogênica, por mostrar estrutura semelhante ao estrogênio humano e sintético (Setchell e Adlercreutz, 1988; Nachtigall, 2001).

A soja contém três tipos de isoflavonas, com quatro formas isoméricas: Aglicona (daidzeína, genisteína e gliciteína), Glicosídeos, Acetilglicosídeos, Malonilglicosídeos; porém as agliconas são as formas ativas no organismo, verdadeiramente absorvidas e aproveitadas (Wang e Murphy, 1994).

A biodisponibilidade das isoflavonas da soja é influenciada por um intestino intacto, saudável, com microflora capaz de converter estas isoflavonas em suas formas ativas (Raffi et al., 2003). Estudos mostram que a administração de antibiótico bloqueia o metabolismo das isoflavonas pela

microflora intestinal (Setchell et al., 1997; 1998; 2002). A absorção intestinal da isoflavona tem sido motivo de ampla discussão. Em um recente estudo randomizado com 68 mulheres, administrou-se isoflavona de soja com *Lactobacillus sporogenes* com o intuito de aumentar sua absorção pelo intestino, sendo que os bons resultados obtidos sobre os sintomas climatéricos foram atribuídos ao efeito potencial dos lactobacilos na absorção da isoflavona (Zervoudis et al., 2008).

As isoflavonas da soja podem agir de três diferentes formas, como estrogênio e antiestrogênio, como inibidores de enzimas ligadas ao desenvolvimento do câncer e como antioxidantes (Messina e Erdman, 1995).

A primeira forma de ação é justificada pelo fato de as isoflavonas ligarem-se aos receptores de estrogênio, exercendo ação estrogênica ou antiestrogênica, dependendo do nível de estrogênios sexuais endógenos. Essa capacidade deve-se ao fato de essas substâncias de origem vegetal comportarem-se como estrogênios verdadeiros, já que apresentam estrutura molecular muito semelhante à do estrogênio humano. Estudos mostram que embora o efeito desses fitoestrogênios seja muito “fraco” (1/1000 a 1/ 100.000 da atividade estrogênica do estradiol), eles podem ao mesmo tempo exercer um efeito agonístico e antagonístico sobre os estrogênios endógenos, porque competem pelos mesmos receptores (Markiewicz et al., 1993). O efeito biológico das isoflavonas varia de acordo com alguns fatores, como a fase biológica da mulher (estado estrogênico intrínseco), dose utilizada, duração do uso, afinidade a proteínas carregadoras, metabolismo individual, assim como a

distribuição tecidual dos subtipos de receptores estrogênicos, alfa ou beta (Marito et al., 2002). Diversos estudos mostraram que a isoflavona não aumenta o estradiol plasmático e seu mecanismo de ação biológica é via receptor beta (Han et al., 2002; Balk et al., 2005). Os receptores alfa são encontrados principalmente na mama e no útero, e os receptores betas no osso e no sistema cardiovascular. O estradiol tem afinidade por ambos os receptores, enquanto que as isoflavonas são sete vezes mais seletivas para os receptores beta do que para os alfa (Marito et al., 2002). Na pós-menopausa, quando a concentração do estrogênio endógeno circulante diminui em média 60%, os receptores ficam mais disponíveis, favorecendo a fraca ação estrogênica das isoflavonas, que acabam compensando a deficiência do hormônio humano; assim a ação agonista pode ser mais evidente e um possível efeito estrogênico poderá ser observado em pacientes predispostas (Wuttke et al., 2007). Desta forma, além de proporcionarem uma melhora dos sintomas climatéricos, elas mantêm uma ação estrogênica positiva no metabolismo ósseo, no sistema nervoso central e no sistema cardiovascular; não obstante, apresentando uma ação neutra em mama e útero (Messina e Erdman, 1995).

Um estudo realizado com 145 mulheres na pós-menopausa, recebendo dieta rica em fitoestrogênios (mais de 60mg/dia) durante 12 semanas, mostrou que houve redução dos sintomas do climatério em 50%, dos fogachos em 54% e da secura vaginal em 60% (Brzezinski et al., 1997). Em outro estudo com 104 mulheres na menopausa, consumindo isolado protéico de soja em forma de suplemento alimentar e contendo 50mg a 90mg de fitoestrogênios/dia, os

resultados foram positivos, havendo alívio dos sintomas vasomotores, diminuição da incidência e severidade das ondas de calor (Albertazzi et al., 1998).

Upmalls et al. 2000, realizaram um estudo com 177 mulheres em pós-menopausa que sentiam cinco ou mais ondas de calor por dia e que receberam extrato de isoflavona de soja (50mg de genisteína/daidzeína/dia) ou placebo, demonstraram que houve diminuição na incidência das ondas de calor após duas semanas, no grupo da soja. O grupo placebo não demonstrou qualquer melhora nas primeiras quatro semanas e após as 12 semanas diminuíram as diferenças entre os grupos. A avaliação da espessura endometrial feita por ultra-som, os níveis de lipoproteínas, marcadores ósseos, hormônios sexuais ligados à globulina, hormônios folículo-estimulantes e citologia vaginal não se alteraram em ambos os grupos. Alguns estudos em nosso meio, utilizando 100mg a 120mg de isoflavona de soja, obtiveram resultados semelhantes concluindo que o tratamento com isoflavona foi efetivo no alívio dos sintomas vasomotores (Han et al., 2002; Kaari et al., 2006; Nahas et al., 2007).

Os ensaios clínicos controlados que avaliam os efeitos da isoflavona nos sintomas vasomotores são contraditórios. Em estudo randomizado, controlado e duplo-cego envolvendo 99 mulheres comparando o uso de composto alimentar com isoflavona de soja e placebo, concluiu-se que a isoflavona não é mais efetiva que o placebo no alívio dos sintomas vasomotores (Lewis et al., 2006). Em uma meta-análise que envolveu 17 ensaios clínicos controlados que utilizaram o extrato de isoflavona em cápsulas em mulheres climatéricas, não

foi demonstrada a redução da frequência das ondas de calor (Nelson et al., 2006). Em uma revisão recente da Cochrane Library, com 30 ensaios clínicos randomizados e controlados, envolvendo o total de 2.730 participantes que usaram fitoestrogênios, tanto como extrato de isoflavona em cápsulas quanto suplemento alimentar, também se concluiu que não há evidência da efetividade desta substância no alívio dos sintomas climatéricos (Lethaby et al., 2007)

A segunda forma de ação das isoflavonas não está relacionada à atividade estrogênica, e sim à inibição do crescimento de uma gama de células cancerígenas, incluindo aquelas que não são hormônio-dependentes. A explicação proposta é a capacidade das isoflavonas inibirem a atividade de enzimas como a tiroxina proteína quinase, responsável pela indução tumoral promovida pela fosforilação dos oncogenes, a ribossoma S6 quinase e a DNA topoisomerase I e II, enzimas que controlam o crescimento e regulação celular. As isoflavonas podem também aumentar a concentração do fator  $\beta$  de crescimento tumoral, que atua na inibição do crescimento de células cancerosas (Peterson et al., 1998; Tham et al., 1998). Um estudo realizado por pesquisadores da Universidade Nacional de Cingapura, da Organização Britânica Cancer Research e do Instituto Nacional do Câncer dos Estados Unidos, reforçou a hipótese de que o consumo de alimentos à base de soja protege contra o desenvolvimento do câncer de mama. A pesquisa avaliou 406 mulheres entre 45 e 74 anos e verificou que aquelas que consumiram uma dieta rica em produtos com soja eram 60% menos propensas a ter um tecido mamário de “alto risco” (Jakes et al., 2002).

Finalmente, a terceira forma diz respeito ao efeito antioxidante das isoflavonas, inibindo a produção de oxigênio reativo, que está envolvido na produção de radicais livres. Estudos mostram que ao atuarem como antioxidantes, as isoflavonas podem ter a capacidade de neutralizar ou tornar mais lenta a taxa de oxidação do LDL-colesterol (Wei et al., 1995). Uma metanálise de 38 estudos clínicos bem controlados examinou a relação do consumo da soja com os níveis dos lipídios séricos e revelou que em 29 estudos a substituição da proteína animal pela proteína da soja estava associada a uma diminuição significativa dos níveis séricos das triglicérides e do colesterol total, à custa basicamente da redução dos níveis de LDL. A média de diminuição dos níveis lipídicos variou de 8% a 13% (Anderson et al., 1995). Outro estudo controlado com 216 mulheres na pós-menopausa comparou o uso da isoflavona de soja com placebo e mostrou uma melhora no perfil lipídico da população estudada (Allen et al., 2007). Em uma recente meta-análise envolvendo 23 estudos que usaram proteína de soja contendo isoflavonas demonstrou-se uma melhora significativa no perfil lipídico, porém as mudanças foram inversamente proporcionais entre a duração da intervenção e a diminuição do colesterol sérico, sendo que nos estudos analisados a diminuição mais significativa dos efeitos da proteína de soja sobre o colesterol total ocorreu no período inicial do tratamento. Isto pode estar relacionado a um mecanismo de adaptação fisiológica ou a uma diminuição da aderência à suplementação prolongada (Zhan e Ho, 2005). Em contrapartida, um estudo com bom nível de evidência avaliou 202 mulheres na pós-menopausa utilizando suplemento alimentar com 99mg de isoflavona por um ano, e observou que não houve

melhora no perfil lipídico da população avaliada (Kreijkamp-Kaspers et al., 2004). Outro recente estudo randomizado, controlado e duplo-cego com 203 mulheres pós-menopausadas usando de 40mg a 80mg de isoflavona por um período de um ano, não encontrou efeito significativo sobre o perfil lipídico (Ho et al., 2007).

Estudos demonstram resultados controversos que impedem o conhecimento real da utilização dos fitoestrogênios como terapia alternativa, embora na prática muitas mulheres estejam trocando a TH, cujos riscos e benefícios são bastante conhecidos, por reposição com fitoestrogênios ou estão introduzindo de forma descontrolada o uso de alimentos ricos em fitoestrogênios, como a soja, em sua alimentação, sem saberem se este procedimento apresenta ou não riscos para a paciente climatérica. Por outro lado, esta contradição de estudos e informações acaba prejudicando as mulheres que não podem fazer uso da terapia hormonal e que muitas vezes poderiam estar se beneficiando com o uso controlado do fitoestrogênio e assim obtendo melhora dos sintomas climatéricos.

O objetivo deste estudo foi comparar o uso dos fitoestrogênios contidos na alimentação em forma de suplemento nutricional e o uso da terapia hormonal no tratamento dos sintomas climatéricos e sua ação nos lípidos plasmáticos, a fim de proporcionar dados que contribuirão para o conhecimento do papel da utilização dos fitoestrogênios como terapia alternativa.

## 2. Objetivos

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### 2.1. Objetivo Geral

Avaliar os efeitos do suplemento alimentar com fitoestrogênio, contendo especificamente 90mg/dia de isoflavona, sobre os sintomas climatéricos e parâmetros de riscos cardiovasculares clínicos e laboratoriais de mulheres climatéricas, comparado aos efeitos do uso da terapia hormonal (TH) e placebo.

### 2.2. Objetivos Específicos

- Avaliar os efeitos do uso dos fitoestrogênios no alívio dos sintomas climatéricos somáticos, psicológicos e urogenitais ao longo do tratamento e compará-los com o uso da TH e grupo placebo.
- Avaliar os efeitos do uso dos fitoestrogênios sobre parâmetros cardiovasculares clínicos e laboratoriais do perfil lipídico e glicemia ao longo do tratamento, e compará-los com o uso da TH e grupo placebo.

## 3. Publicações

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### 3.1. Artigo 1

**The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on menopausal symptoms: a randomized controlled trial**

Carmignani LO, Pedro AO, Costa-Paiva LHS, Pinto-Neto AM

Enviado para publicação: *The Journal of the North American Menopause Society*

*Manuscrito número: MENO-D-08-00192*

### 3.2. Artigo 2

**The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on main cardiovascular health biomarkers: a randomized controlled trial**

Carmignani LO, Pedro AO, Costa-Paiva LHS, Pinto-Neto AM

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## **The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on menopausal symptoms: a randomized controlled trial**

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## **Abstract**

**Objective:** To compare the effects of daily ingestion of soy dietary supplement, hormone therapy (HT) and placebo on psychological, somatic and urogenital symptoms in postmenopausal women. **Design & Method:** This was a double-blind, randomized and controlled intention-to-treat trial. Sixty healthy postmenopausal women, aged 40-60, 4.1 years mean time since menopause were recruited and randomly assigned to three groups: a soy dietary supplement group (isoflavone 90mg), an HT group (estradiol 1mg plus noretisterone 0.5mg) and a placebo group. The Menopause Rating Scale (MRS) was used to assess change in menopausal symptoms at baseline and after 16 weeks of treatment. To examine the effects of this regime on endogenous hormone levels, follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and  $17\beta$ -estradiol were measured. Statistical analyses were performed using Chi-Square and Fisher's exact test and repeated-measures analysis of co-variance. **Results:** The data showed decrease in MRS total score comparing baseline values and after 16 weeks in all of the groups. There was significant improvement in somatic and urogenital symptoms from baseline to after 16 weeks for both the HT and Soy groups, compared with the placebo group. There was no difference among the studied groups concerning psychological symptoms: all three groups showed a similar improvement. As expected, FSH decreased and  $17\beta$ -estradiol increased only in the HT group. **Conclusion:** This study suggests that a soy dietary supplement regime treatment may be an effective alternative therapy for somato vegetative and urogenital menopausal symptoms.

**Key-words:** Menopause – Soy – Menopause Rating Scale – Kupperman Index – Randomized, controlled trial – Hormone therapy.

## Introduction

Climacteric symptoms occur in approximately 80% of menopausal women and impact their quality of life<sup>1,2</sup>. A Brazilian population-based study reports prevalence of hot flashes in approximately 70% of peri- and postmenopausal women<sup>3</sup>. Hormone therapy is well established for the relief of climacteric symptoms in postmenopausal women; however, recent reports have shown that exposure to estrogen may increase the risk of breast cancer, coronary heart disease, stroke and pulmonary embolism<sup>4,5</sup>. Thus, the risks of hormone therapy for postmenopausal symptoms may outweigh the benefits for some patients; therefore, HT alternatives have been investigated. In Brazil, a recent evaluation of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) regarding medical knowledge of gynecologists and its repercussion on their attitudes and practice report that 46.3% of gynecologists began to prescribe isoflavone and other natural medications for climacteric symptoms<sup>6</sup>. Another Brazilian study with 230 participants showed that 70% of the women who look for phyto-medication instead of traditional hormone therapy, do so in consequence of their fear of developing cancer<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, many women find the risk associated with hormone therapy to be unacceptable and are requesting non-hormonal therapies to manage their vasomotor symptoms.

Interest has risen concerning isoflavones, found in rich supply in soy products, as therapy for hot flashes<sup>8</sup>. Although many factors may contribute to the low prevalence of vasomotor symptoms in postmenopausal women in some Asian cultures, one possible explanation would be a diet high in phytoestrogens, plant compounds with estrogen-like properties<sup>9,10</sup>. Soy is a rich source of the isoflavones genistein, daidzein and glycitein. Isoflavones are structurally similar to estradiol and have a higher binding affinity for the beta-estrogen receptor. The diphenolic structure of lignans and isoflavones is similar of

17beta-estradiol and they are thought to have estrogenic or antiestrogenic effects, depending on circulating estrogen levels: they act as antiestrogens when the estrogen level is high and as estrogens when the estrogen level is low, as in post-menopausal women<sup>11,12</sup>, although the agonist/antagonist effects are determined largely by concentrations of isoflavones and endogenous estrogen<sup>12-14</sup>.

Clinical studies have shown that soy isoflavone extract supplementation is beneficial in decreasing menopausal symptoms<sup>15</sup>. However, other studies have failed to demonstrate a reduction of menopausal symptoms using 80mg or more of isoflavone per day in postmenopausal patients<sup>16,17</sup>. The studies that show an inconclusive effect on symptoms frequently have a bias in their methodology, such as mixed peri- and postmenopausal women in their inclusion criteria<sup>18-20</sup>; use of soy powders with gastrointestinal side effects and high dropout rates<sup>21</sup>; not all studies were placebo controlled and others did not control phytoestrogen intake from other food sources, leading to potential contamination<sup>22-24</sup>.

Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine the effects of isolated soy protein-containing isoflavones 90mg on psychological, somatic and urogenital symptoms in postmenopausal women and to compare the results with the effects of low-dose hormone therapy and placebo.

## **Methods**

### **Participants**

Sixty participants were recruited from two Menopause Outpatient Clinics of the Center for Integral Attention to Women's Health at the University of Campinas – UNICAMP in Campinas, SP and Leonor Mendes de Barros Maternity Hospital in São Paulo, SP, Brazil to participate in a 16-week double-blind, randomized placebo-

controlled trial designed to examine the effect of soy dietary isoflavone supplementation on menopausal symptoms.

Inclusion criteria were postmenopausal women between 40 and 60 years of age, who had had their last menstrual period longer than 12 months ago and received a follicle-stimulating hormone dose greater than 30mIU/mL, had estradiol levels lower than 20pg/ml and who had not been on any type of hormonal treatment during the previous six months and were not currently using lipid lowering drugs, antidiabetic medication, soybean derived products, or herbal supplements. The inclusion criteria were also based on the number of hot flashes in 24 hours: more than 8 hot flashes/day. The exclusion criteria were antecedent of hysterectomy, chronic gastrointestinal disorder, any contra-indication for hormone therapy or for participation in a conflicting clinical trial. Finally, women were excluded if they had a known allergy or hypersensitivity to soy or cow milk or were not willing to avoid soy products for the 16 weeks of the study. The study was conducted between January and October 2007. The Research Ethics Committee approved the protocol, and all participants provided a signed informed consent form.

### **Randomization and blinding**

After initial screening, 60 women were assigned to the three different treatments in a sequence determined by a computerized random-number generator. All patients received a numerical randomized envelope, with a letter inside labeled #1 or #2 or #3, corresponding to hormone therapy, isoflavone 90 mg per day and placebo, respectively. During the study, the subjects and study personnel were not informed about the order of treatment. Study drugs were packaged in 30-day flasks. A gynecologist who did not

participate in the screening part of this study or the distribution of the drugs conducted the follow-up.

### **Intervention**

The women were randomly assigned to one of three treatment groups with daily oral intakes as follows:

- Hormone therapy (n = 20): one tablet of estradiol 1mg + noretisterone acetate 0.5mg (Activelle®, Medley Pharmaceuticals, Campinas, SP, Brazil) associated with 2 portions/day of placebo powder.
- Soy group (n = 20): 2 portions/day of a food powder with Isoflavone 45mg/portion totalizing 90mg of isoflavone/day (Previna®, Sanavita Functional Foods, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil) and one placebo tablet.
- Placebo group (n = 20): one placebo tablet and 2 portions/day of placebo powder.

The soy intervention (Previna®, Sanavita Functional Foods, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil) consisted of 20 g/portion of a food powder containing 12g of soy protein and 45mg total isoflavones (26.5mg aglycones) to be mixed with 200ml of any beverage. The soy intervention contained approximately 8mg total daidzein, 15mg total genistein and 3.5mg total glycitein. The placebo powder (Sanavita Functional Foods) contained 20g of maltodextrin, looked identical to the soy powder and contained the same nutrients and calories, other than isoflavones and soy protein. Both supplements also contained calcium carbonate 488 mg/portion and hydrolyzed collagen 1.2/portion. The supplement was taken twice a day for a total of 16 weeks.

The placebo tablet was taken once a day, looked identical to the hormone tablet and was produced by Medley Pharmaceuticals.

## Measurements

At the screening visit, women responded to a standardized questionnaire, which ascertained information about demographic characteristics including age, ethnicity, education level and social status. Women were also queried about reproductive antecedents, age at menopause, time since menopause, use of medication, cigarette smoking history and frequency of alcohol use.

Data were collected in the three groups at baseline and at sixteen weeks of the study. To examine the effects of this regime on endogenous hormone levels, follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol were measured.

The Menopause Rating Scale (MRS) was used to assess change in menopausal symptoms at baseline and after 16 weeks of treatment. The MRS is composed of 11 items assessing menopausal symptoms and divided into three subscales<sup>25</sup>:

- Somatic symptoms: hot flashes, heart discomfort, sleeping problems and muscle and joint problems (items 1-3 and 11 respectively).
- Psychological symptoms: depressive mood, irritability, anxiety, physical and mental exhaustion (items 4-7, respectively).
- Urogenital symptoms: sexual problems, bladder problems and vaginal dryness (items 8-10).

Each item can be graded by the subject from zero (not present) to four (1=mild; 2=moderate; 3=severe; 4=very severe). The total score for each subscale is the sum of

each graded item contained in that subscale. MRS total score represents the sum of scores obtained for each subscale.

Side effects were analyzed according to the onset of the symptom during the period of treatment. If the symptom was already present and either persisted or improved within the period of treatment, it was considered unaltered.

### **Compliance**

Compliance was assessed by self-report of the number of packets of product missed, which was then converted to a percentage of the prescribed packets that were ingested. The compliance was high and there were not any dropouts during the study in any of the three groups.

### **Statistical analysis**

Data were analyzed according to the intention-to-treat principle, including all original participants in the group to which they were randomly assigned. Data of epidemiologic and clinical characteristics were analyzed including Chi-Square test, Fisher's exact test, non-parametric test of Kruskal-Wallis and analysis of variance (ANOVA). The results of MRS and its subscales were analyzed as mean, with the observations at baseline; after the treatment they were compared, in the same group, with a paired Student's t test. The mean percentage variation among the groups was compared through the Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by the Mann-Whitney test<sup>26</sup>. The percent variation was calculated using the formula (pre-treatment value - post-treatment value/pre-treatment value x 100). The menopausal symptoms in each MRS subscale were analyzed through mean percentage variation, using the Kruskal-Wallis test,

followed by the Mann-Whitney test<sup>26</sup>. Estradiol and FSH mean percentage variation was calculated with ANOVA test (followed by the Tukey test) and Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test (followed by the Mann-Whitney test). Side effects were analyzed through Fisher's Exact test. Results were considered statistically significant when an alpha error (*p* values) was less than 0.05. SAS Version 9.1.3 (SAS Institute Inc., Carey, NC, USA) was used to perform the analyses<sup>27</sup>.

### **Sample size**

To determine sample size, a total of 16 subjects per group were required to achieve 90% power in the detection of different treatment results, with three hot flash applications in a 24-hour period, assuming a standard deviation of 3.8 hot flashes per day<sup>28</sup>. The significance level of the test was set at alpha 0.05 and beta 0.05, based on a study by Albertazzi<sup>18</sup> et al., 1998. The total of subjects per group was increased to 20 (greater than 20% increase), to compensate eventual segment losses.

The difference in sample size determination was estimated comparing the group that used phytoestrogen with the control group. This option was selected because a much smaller sample size would result if the difference for groups treated with HT were chosen, as according to the literature they result in greater difference.

### **Results**

A total of 1,520 patients were screened in both study centers in order to select 60 participants. The study was conducted in a tertiary reference center and its subjects were patients that presented, besides the climacteric syndrome, great incidence of associated pathologies, a fact that caused difficulties for inclusion of patients and lengthened the

necessary period to achieve 60 eligible subjects. Women assisted at menopause outpatient clinics were invited to answer a check list in order to meet the study's criteria. The majority of women screened were excluded because they did not meet inclusion criteria (95%) and because some of them had no interest in participating in the study (5%). Most of them (n=1370) were excluded in the first pre-randomization visit and the main reasons were: 54% - hypertension; 40% - obesity; 28% - hysterectomy; 22% - metabolic syndrome; 8% - diabetes mellitus; in addition, 30% had some type of gynecological cancer, 40% were on hormone therapy or non-hormonal therapy for climacteric syndrome (more than one condition per patient). At the second pre-randomization visit, 90 women were considered ineligible and the reasons were: screening altered for endometrial thickness, some altered findings in the mammography, estradiol level higher than 20 pg/ml and lipid profile and/or fasting glucose with high levels, necessitating immediate treatment with specific drugs. At the randomization visit, the remaining 60 women were equally randomized into the three groups, as illustrated in Figure 1. These groups were observed for 16 weeks and there were no dropouts or lost to follow-up.

Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics of the participants by intervention group. There were no significant differences between the groups. The average age was 52.4 ( $\pm 3.9$ ) years. Women were on average 4.1 ( $\pm 3.3$ ) years post-menopause and the mean age at menopause was 48 ( $\pm 3.7$ ) years.

The data showed a statistically significant decrease in MRS total scale and all MRS subscales comparing the baseline values and after 16 weeks of treatment in all groups (intragroup differences), except in the urogenital subscale where the placebo group did not show any improvement. The intergroup analysis showed significant

improvement in somatic and urogenital symptoms only in the HT and soy groups. There was no difference among the studied groups concerning psychological symptoms and in the MRS total score: all three groups showed similar improvement (Table 2).

Mean percentage variation in climacteric psychological, somatic and urogenital symptoms in the menopause rating scale according to treatment group is represented in Figures 2, 3 and 4 respectively. There was significant improvement for hot flashes, joint and muscle problems and vaginal dryness in the hormone and soy groups when compared with the placebo group.

As expected, FSH decreased and  $17\beta$ -estradiol increased only in the HT group (Table 3).

The side effects were similar in all treatment groups (Table 4).

## **Discussion**

The results of this trial showed that 90 mg per day of isoflavone in the form of a powder dietary supplement containing soy protein, was effective in alleviating somatovegetative symptoms, such as hot flashes and joint/muscle problems and produced significant improvement in vaginal dryness. The same happened with HT, when compared with placebo use. This intention-to-treat trial used low-dose HT, a global tendency in order to diminish side effects while keeping the benefits and adherence to treatment. There tends to be significant improvement in all of the groups over time, hence a placebo group is important even if comparing the effects of two treatments, and a time and type of treatment analysis is critical for repeated measures.

In this study, isoflavone reduced hot flashes, but its real mechanism is not completely known. The mechanism of action can be explained in that isoflavones are

similar to endogenous estrogen, compete with estrogen for the same receptors and exert an agonist or antagonist effect, depending on concentrations of isoflavones and endogenous estrogen<sup>12,13</sup>. Some factors may contribute to our findings, like the proportion of isoflavone and soy protein contained in the dietary supplement studied which was 3.75mg/g soy protein (45mg total isoflavone/12g of soy protein), considered intermediate sources of isoflavones<sup>41,42</sup>. Some research databases on the isoflavone content of foods have been studied<sup>43,44</sup>. The richest isoflavone source is soy protein (with 1 - 3 mg of isoflavone/gram of soy protein), employed in this study<sup>45</sup>. The second richest isoflavone source is the raw soybean, which contains 1g of isoflavone/gram of soy protein, but with over 90% of it as glucosides, a non bioactive form. In order to transform glucosides in aglycone, its bioactive form, the presence of intestinal bacteria<sup>46</sup> is essential. The ability to convert daidzein into equol, also fundamental, occurs only in 30 to 50% of the general population, depending on the probiotic intestinal bacteria<sup>46-48</sup>. The benefit of isoflavones may be limited only to adults who produce equol, a more potent estrogenic isoflavone that is absorbed along with unconverted genistein and didzein<sup>46</sup>. This is an important consideration in clinical trials to determine the equol status, which is not observed in the majority of publications. Another possibility that could explain differences is the severity of hot flushes at baseline, since in some trials women were eligible for participation with less severe symptomatology<sup>32</sup>. In this trial the symptomatology was considered adequate with a similar baseline total MRS in all the three groups and the symptoms were consider moderate to severe.

Positive results of soy isoflavone on menopausal symptoms have been reported by different authors. A systematic review of 178 studies, among which 21 trials examine the effects of soy supplements or soy food containing isoflavones on vasomotor

symptoms, signal that soy products may reduce menopausal symptoms in postmenopausal women<sup>29</sup>. Among the six randomized trials showing positive results, the net reduction in weekly hot flash frequency ranges from 7% to 40%. In this study the severity of hot flashes was reduced by about 65.4%. In a randomized study involving 177 menopausal women, soy isoflavones were found to be superior to placebo in decreasing hot flash severity (27% reduction versus 18%, respectively), but not hot flash frequency<sup>30</sup>. In a randomized study involving 75 menopausal women there was a 61% decrease in hot flashes with isoflavones compared with a 21% decrease with placebo, and 68% of patients in the isoflavone group experienced a decrease in their hot flashes by more than half, compared with 32% in the placebo group<sup>31</sup>. Another randomized controlled trial of 82 postmenopausal women reported an improvement in vasomotor symptoms on the Kupperman Index with the use of soy isoflavones compared with baseline and placebo<sup>23</sup>. The current literature does not support other soy product effects than hot flush relief. It is important to highlight that no significant effect was found for soy and/or its isoflavones treatment compared to the control treatment of vasomotor symptoms in peri-menopausal women or women who had breast cancer therapies<sup>29</sup>.

In the opposite direction, a recent systematic review was undertaken with 30 randomized studies with peri- or postmenopausal women with vasomotor symptoms, where the intervention was a food or supplement with high levels of phytoestrogens. Of the nine included studies that used some type of substance containing dietary soy and had efficacy analyses of any kind, seven studies indicated that there were no significant differences between the soy intervention and the control group<sup>32</sup>. Another meta-analysis including 17 controlled trials showed that the effects of soy isoflavone on menopausal symptoms are inconsistent<sup>33</sup>. Other studies have shown no difference in effectiveness

between isoflavones and placebo<sup>17,19,34-38</sup>. Some investigators have used a variety of protocols, including a range of isolated soy proteins, differing doses of isoflavones, differing trial lengths, and different population subgroups in an attempt to delineate the components of soy protein, doses and circumstances whereby soy could be effective in alleviating menopausal symptoms<sup>39,40</sup>.

One of the most frequent and bothersome climacteric symptoms is joint/muscle pain and these symptoms were statistically improved in the HT and Soy groups by about 30% to 40% respectively<sup>49</sup>.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists states that soy and isoflavones may be helpful in the short-term (two years or less) for treatment of vasomotor symptoms; however, given the possibility of interaction with estrogen, these agents should not be considered exempt of potential harm for women, specially those who have an estrogen-dependent cancer<sup>42,50</sup>. The North American Menopause Society is cautious about recommending foods or supplements that contain isoflavones<sup>51</sup>. Some professionals or even the media have recommended alimentary isoflavones, but the observed health effects cannot be clearly attributed to isoflavones alone<sup>37</sup>. However, the treatment of menopause-associated vasomotor symptoms with estrogen therapy and estrogen-progestogen therapy was established in NAMS position in 2007<sup>52</sup>.

In the Menopause Rating Scale sub-item related to urogenital symptoms, there was significant vaginal dryness improvement in the soy group, compared to the HT group. Chiechi et al., 2003<sup>53</sup>, in a randomized controlled trial with 187 women found that a soy rich diet (isoflavone 20-30mg/day) is efficacious in increasing the maturation indices of vaginal cells and should be considered to avoid vaginal atrophy in the postmenopause. Another study, with 22 postmenopausal women who took an isoflavone

extract (60mg/day), also showed a beneficial effect on vaginal epithelia<sup>54</sup>. In contrast, a randomized double-blind clinical trial with 79 women using 120mg of isoflavone for 6 months found that soy isoflavone had no effect on vaginal mucosa<sup>55</sup>. Recently some commercial products with isoflavone were developed for vaginal use, although without any publication concerning its use<sup>56</sup>. As regards sexual and bladder problems evaluation, no treatment was shown to be effective<sup>57</sup>. Another recent prospective randomized double-blind placebo control study with 75 women treated with 100mg of soy isoflavone for 24 weeks showed significant improvement of the Female Sexual Function Index in the desire and pain dimensions<sup>58</sup>.

Psychological symptoms had a similar improvement in all the studied groups, but there was no significative difference among them. The reviewed literature emphasize that is difficult to measure psychological symptoms. In a double-blind randomized, placebo controlled trial with 202 postmenopausal women the authors concluded that the use of soy protein supplement containing isoflavones does not improve cognitive function<sup>59</sup>. Other trials with a small number of subjects and different kinds of intervention, that make comparison difficult, also found no improvement in psychological symptoms<sup>59</sup>. It is important to highlight that the menopausal experience also differs significantly with the educational level, socioeconomic status, physical and psychological health, marital status and among ethnic groups<sup>60,61</sup>. Another set of factors that may have contributed for the improvement of total MRS in all the study groups are the positive psychological factors usually associated with the touching, caring and attention that are part of the process of medical attention. Besides the positive effect directly generated, the psychological factors may also have enhanced patient motivation regarding self-care.

With the intention of assessing the effect of dietary soy on endocrine functions, FSH and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol levels were measured at baseline and after 16 weeks of intervention. As expected, FSH decreased and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol increased only in the HT group. In a large review about soy effects on FSH and estradiol levels, the results were conflicting and no significant effect was found. Most of the studies reviewed showed there is a tendency for soy to reduce estradiol, although they failed to demonstrate a significant effect, so that the overall effect of soy on estradiol levels was not consistent<sup>29</sup>. Han et al, 2002<sup>23</sup>, showed an increase of 17 $\beta$ -estradiol in the soy group but no change in endometrial thickness, suggesting that the soy treatment is not enough to produce a proliferative effect on endometrial tissue<sup>23</sup>.

The adverse effects measured in this trial were not significant, which is in accordance with most of the literature reviewed. There was good dietary soy supplement acceptability and this may have contributed to the absence of dropouts in this study. It is important to observe that, in this trial, a soy dietary supplement without flavor was used and the patients could mix the powder with their food or beverage. In the Cochrane Review of 2007, most trials revealed no significant difference between the randomized groups and only in one trial<sup>20</sup> it was found that 75% of participants in the soy group had adverse events, compared to 17% of the placebo group. These side effects included bloating, nausea, weight gain and bowel function concerns<sup>32</sup>. It is important to highlight that, in this trial, mastalgia and bleeding were similar in the soy and HT group, probably because a low HT dose was used. The evidence from human studies does not suggest any worrisome adverse event beyond mild gastrointestinal intolerance, but conclusions are limited due the heterogeneity of soy products and different formulations<sup>20,32</sup>.

In this study the MRS was used, a self-administered health-related quality of life (HRQoL) scale that seeks to diminish errors made by health professionals when applying questionnaires<sup>62,63</sup>. Also, MRS use is widespread and it is a kind of quantitative evaluation of menopausal symptoms that allows the assessment of symptomatology, the success of various treatments and symptoms comparison over time<sup>64</sup>. MRS is compatible for application in many cultures and also in different social classes<sup>64</sup>. The Portuguese version was developed in Brazil, following international methodological recommendations for the linguistic and cultural adaptation of HRQoL instruments<sup>64</sup>.

The results of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study, published in 2002, prompted many women and physicians to reconsider the use of estrogen and progesterone hormone therapy to alleviate hot flashes<sup>5</sup>. Treatment of menopausal symptoms remains an indication for estrogen, although the US Food and Drug Administration advises physicians to use the smallest effective dose for the shortest duration possible<sup>65,66</sup>. Some research findings have demonstrated that more than 30% of the American adult population use alternative therapies and that the highest use is among symptomatic women<sup>37,67,68</sup>. In this randomized double-blind placebo controlled trial it was possible to conclude that a soy dietary supplement containing 90 mg of isoflavone/day may be an effective alternative therapy for hot flashes and vaginal dryness in postmenopausal women, with satisfactory acceptability and few side effects.

## **Conclusion**

Using a well-validated measure, we conclude that phytoestrogens from soy significantly improve somatovegetative and genital symptoms in postmenopausal

women who are moderately or severely bothered by their experience of menopause. We believe that this study adds knowledge that phytoestrogen from soy (90mg of isoflavone per day) improves the severity of hot flashes, joint/muscle pain and vaginal dryness. This study has been performed with an intention-to-treat analysis and adequate power to answer the question concerning the purpose of this study. The intake of isoflavones was accomplished with food as part of normal daily intake. Since many women choose not to undergo hormone therapy, the superiority of isoflavone over placebo may be useful to them. In addition, we suggest that future studies should be done with equol status analysis and also in a combination with phytoestrogen and probiotic agents in order to evaluate individual effectiveness.

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**Table 1- Characteristics of the women by intervention group (n=60)**

Characteristics	GROUPS			
	HT	Soy	Placebo	p
Age (mean)	53.3	52.9	50.9	0.10•
Age at menopause (mean)	47.6	48.9	47.6	0.43*
Time since menopause (mean)	5.6	3.5	3.3	0.13*
Education (years)	6.6	7.6	6.3	0.73•
Color of the skin (%)				
White	65.0	40.0	70.0	0.11#
Non white	35.0	60.0	30.0	
Parity (%)				
Up to 2	45.0	65.0	40.0	0.33&
> 2	55.0	35.0	60.0	
Social status (%)				
A/B	40.0	55.0	45.0	0.62 #
C/D/E	60.0	45.0	55.0	
Smoking habits (%)				
Smoker/ex-smoker	60.0	35.0	45.0	0.61 #
Non smoker	40.0	65.0	55.0	

• Anova test

# Chi square Test

\* Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test

& Fisher's Exact Test

**Table 2 – Mean total score of Menopause Rating Scale and subscales at baseline and after 16 weeks and percentage variation according to the treatment group (n=60)**

<b>Menopause Rating Subscale</b>	<b>Baseline (Mean and SD)</b>	<b>16 weeks (Mean and SD)</b>	<b>P* (Intragroup differences)</b>	<b>Change** (%) (Intergroup differences)</b>	<b>P* Intergroup difference</b>
<b>Psychological symptoms</b>					
HT	9.9 (3.8)	6.5 (3.4)	<0.01	-30.1	0.61
Soy	8.4 (4.3)	4.9 (3.8)	<0.01	-39,8	
Placebo	7.3 (4.4)	4.8 (3.3)	0.01	-22.1	
<b>Somatic symptoms</b>					
<b>HT</b>	9.7 (2.4)	4.4 (2.9)	<0.01	-45.6	0,02
<b>Soy</b>	8.5 (2.9)	3.9 (2.9)	<0.01	-49,8	
<b>Placebo</b>	8.9 (2.3)	6 (2.8)	<0.01	-28,6	
<b>Urogenital symptoms</b>					
<b>HT</b>	5.4 (2.1)	3 (1.7)	<0.01	-38,6	0,04
<b>Soy</b>	4.8 (2.1)	3.3 (2.3)	<0.01	-31.2	
<b>Placebo</b>	4.6 (2.8)	3.9 (2.2)	0.22	5.7	
<b>Total</b>					
<b>HT</b>	24,9 (6.2)	13.8 (5.9)	<0.01	-40,9	0.06
<b>Soy</b>	21.6 (7.6)	12.1 (7.9)	<0.01	-44.1	
<b>Placebo</b>	20.7 (7.6)	14.7 (6.6)	<0.01	-23.4	

\* *p* for intragroup differences (paired Student's *t* test)

\*\**p* values for intergroup difference (Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by Mann-Whitney, for multiple comparisons):

*Somatic Symptoms: HT x Soy = 0,80; HT x Placebo < 0,01; Soy x Placebo = 0,03*

*Urogenital symptoms: HT x Soy = 0,53; HT x Placebo = 0,01; Soy x Placebo =0.01*

**TABLE 3 – Mean percentage variation (CI 95%) of FSH and Estradiol according to the treatment group (n=60)**

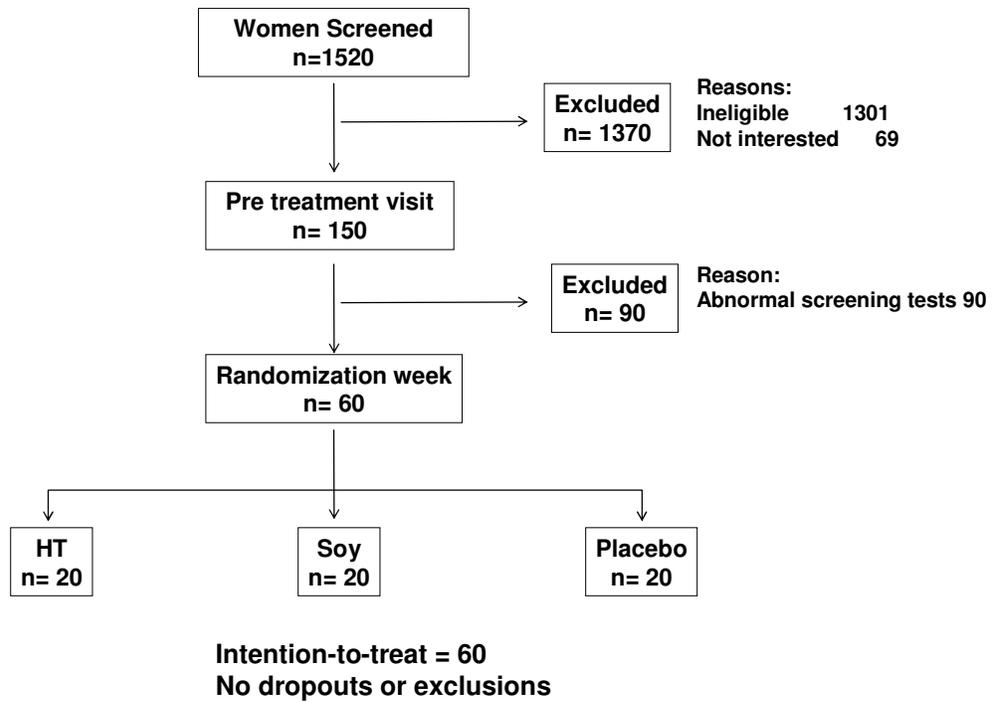
<b>Variable</b>	<b>HT</b>	<b>SOY</b>	<b>Placebo</b>	<b>p</b>
FSH	-46.2 (-62.3; -30)	9.0 (-7.7; 25.7)	3.3 (-24.8; 31.4)	<0.001#
Estradiol	513.7 (208.2; 819,3)	52.31 (19.3; 123.9)	22.0 (-9.3; 55.2)	<0.001*

\* *Non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test (followed by Mann-Whitney)*  
 #*Anova test (followed by Tukey)*

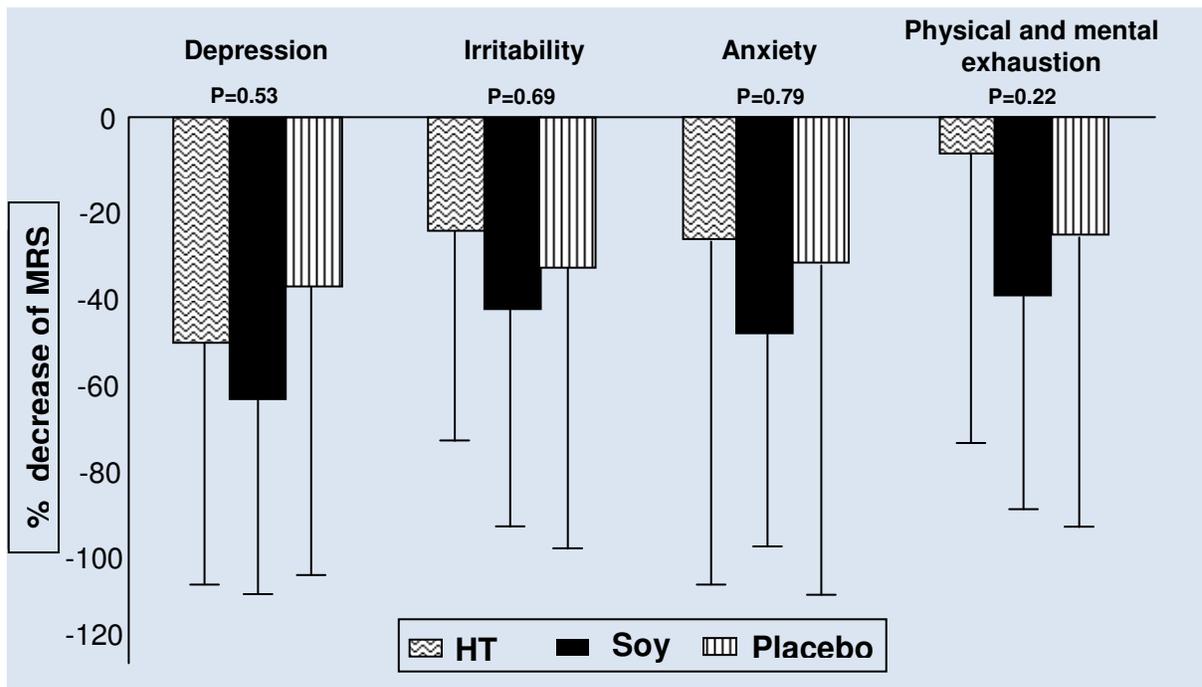
**Table 4 - Percentage distribution of side effects at baseline and after 16 weeks, according to the treatment group (n=60)**

Side effects	<u>HT</u>		<u>Soy</u>		<u>Placebo</u>		<u>P*</u>
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
<b>Mastalgia</b>							0,3529
Presenting symptom	3	15.0	2	10.0	0	0.0	
Other condition	17	85.0	18	90.0	20	100.0	
<b>Bleeding</b>							0.438
Presenting symptom	4	20.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	
Other condition	16	80.0	19	95.0	19	95.0	
<b>Skin problem- Allergy</b>							0.3333
Presenting symptom	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Other condition	19	95.0	20	100.0	20	100.0	
<b>Headache</b>							0.7662
Presenting symptom	2	10.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	
Other condition	18	90.0	19	95.0	20	100.0	
<b>Nausea</b>							0.1442
Presenting symptom	4	20.0	0	0.0	3	15.0	
Other condition	16	80.0	20	100.0	17	85.0	
<b>Weight gain</b>							0.9187
Presenting symptom	4	20.0	3	15.0	5	25.0	
Other condition	16	80.0	17	85.0	15	75.0	
<b>Water retention</b>							0.6803
Presenting symptom	3	15.0	3	15.0	1	5.0	
Other condition	17	85.0	17	85.0	19	95.0	
<b>Intestinal complaints</b>							1.0000
Presenting symptom	2	10.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	
Other condition	18	90.0	19	95.0	19	95.0	

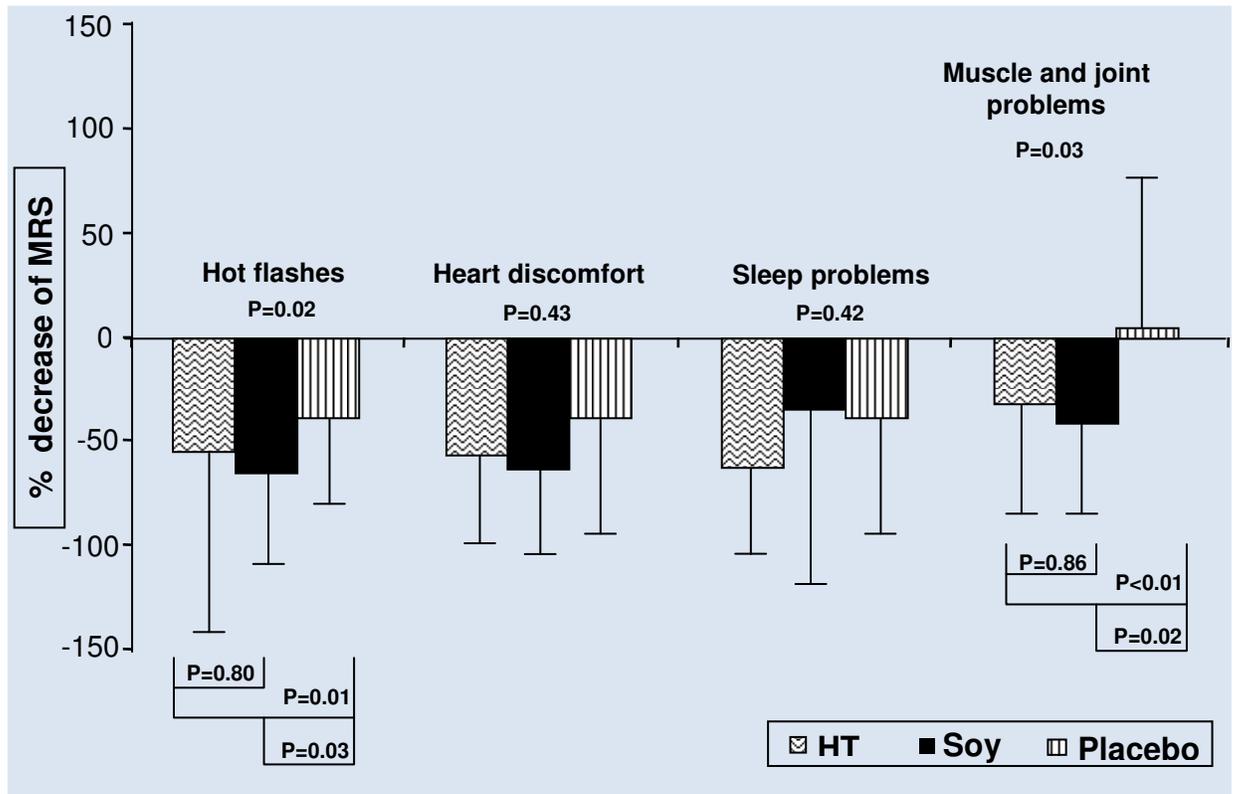
*\*Fisher's Exact Test*



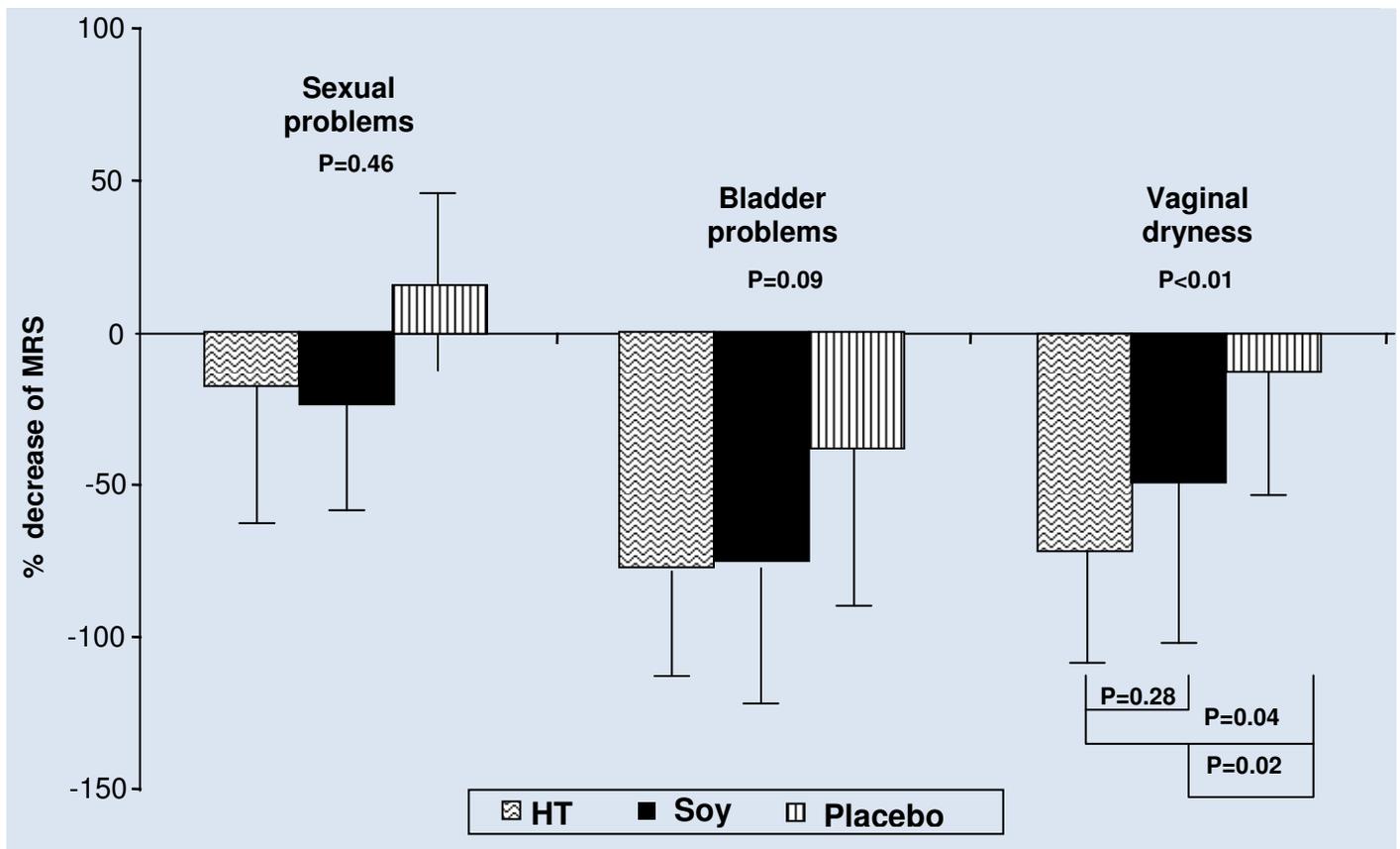
**Figure 1: Participant flow diagram**



*Figure 2. Mean percentage variation in climacteric psychological symptoms in the menopause rating scale according to treatment group. Change from baseline (Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by Mann-Whitney)*



*Figure 3. Mean percentage variation on climacteric somatic symptoms in the menopause rating scale according to treatment group. Change from baseline. (Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by Mann-Whitney)*



*Figure 4. Mean percentage variation in climacteric urogenital symptoms in the menopause rating scale according to treatment group. Change from baseline. (Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by Mann-Whitney)*

**The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on main cardiovascular health biomarkers: a randomized controlled trial**

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## ***Abstract***

***Objective:*** To assess the effects of a soy dietary supplement on the main biomarkers of cardiovascular health in postmenopausal women compared with the effects of hormone therapy (HT) and placebo. ***Design & Method:*** This was a double-blind, randomized and controlled intention-to-treat trial. Sixty healthy postmenopausal women, aged 40-60, 4.1 years mean time since menopause were recruited and randomly assigned to three groups: a soy dietary supplement group (isoflavone 90mg), a low-dose HT group (estradiol 1mg plus noretisterone 0.5mg) and a placebo group. Lipid profile, glucose level, body mass index, blood pressure and abdominal/hip ratio were evaluated in all the participants at baseline and after 16 weeks. Statistical analyses were performed using Chi-Square and Fisher's exact tests and repeated-measures analysis of co-variance. ***Results:*** After a 16-week intervention period, total cholesterol decreased 11.3% and LDL-cholesterol decreased 18.6% in the HT group, but in the soy dietary supplement and placebo groups it did not change. The values for triglycerides, HDL-cholesterol, glucose level, body mass index, blood pressure and abdominal/hip ratio did not change over time in any of the three groups. ***Conclusion:*** The use of dietary soy supplement did not show a significant favorable effect on cardiovascular health biomarkers compared with HT.

***Key-words:*** Menopause – Soy – Lipid profile – Cardiovascular health – Phytoestrogens - Hormone therapy.

## Introduction

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in postmenopausal women<sup>1</sup>. Changes in lipids and lipoproteins at the time of menopause may contribute significantly to the increased risk for development of CVD over a woman's lifetime. Research has documented serum lipids and lipoproteins alteration as a consequence of menopause, resulting in a more atherogenic lipid profile<sup>2</sup>. Some evidence also suggests that this may include shifts in atherogenic lipoprotein subclasses<sup>2</sup>.

Hormone therapy (HT) provides antioxidant protection and has favorable effects on blood lipid and lipoprotein concentration, endothelial function and vascular reactivity<sup>3</sup>. However, reports from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study have shown that exposure to estrogen may induce endometrial proliferation, increase the risk of breast cancer, and multiply the risk of acute cardiac events, vascular cerebral accidents and venous thromboembolism<sup>2-4</sup>. Recent publications suggest that the risk for coronary heart disease (CHD) with HT is greater in older women, distant from menopause, who already have atherosclerosis. It should be emphasized that HT is not effective for the treatment of CHD but younger women may have some benefits, at least with estrogen alone<sup>5,6</sup>. There is some evidence that HT may be cardioprotective if started around the time of menopause, a fact referred to as the "window of opportunity" concept<sup>7</sup>.

Thus, the clinical vascular health benefits of hormone therapy for postmenopausal women remain controversial and alternatives for HT have been sought. Soy is a rich source of the isoflavones genistein, daidzein and glycitein. Isoflavones are structurally similar to estradiol and have a higher binding affinity for the beta-estrogen

receptor, the primary estrogen receptor in the vascular wall, than for the alpha-estrogen receptor<sup>8,9</sup>.

Although there have been mixed results, some clinical trials have demonstrated a beneficial effect of dietary soy protein on plasma lipids and lipoproteins. Isoflavones have antioxidant effects by inhibiting the production of reactive oxygen, which is involved in the production of free radicals. A number of studies show that as a consequence of this antioxidant effect, isoflavones might neutralize or slow down the rate of LDL-cholesterol oxidation<sup>8</sup>. A meta-analysis of 38 published controlled clinical trials showed a significant 12.9% reduction in low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, a significant 10.5% lowering of triglycerides, and a non-significant 2.4% increase in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL) with soy protein intake<sup>9</sup>. Another meta-analysis recently published with twenty-three eligible randomized controlled trials published from 1995 to 2002, involving the intake of soy supplements or soy foods, showed significantly reduced serum total cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol and triglycerides and a significantly increased HDL-cholesterol, but changes were related to the level and duration of intake, gender and initial serum lipid concentrations of subjects<sup>10</sup>. In contrast, there are several studies showing a non-significant effect of reducing oxidative damage or favorably altering blood lipids<sup>11-13</sup>.

Although the soybean has been considered a food with functional properties, capable of reducing cholesterol according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)<sup>14</sup>, which recommends a 25g/day of soy protein as part of a low-fat and cholesterol diet in order to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, some research reports have indicated that lots of industrialized soy-derived products contain varying

quantities of isoflavones, indicating a lack of effective control of raw material and difficulty in the standardization of isoflavone concentrations in those products<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to determine the effects of isolated soy protein-containing isoflavones 90mg on several biomarkers of cardiovascular health in menopause, mainly serum lipoproteins, which are normally used as indexes for cardiovascular disease and compare the results with the effect of hormone therapy and placebo.

## **Methods**

### **Participants**

Sixty participants were recruited from two Menopause Outpatient Clinics of the Center for Integral Attention to Women's Health at the State University of Campinas - UNICAMP in Campinas, SP and Hospital Maternidade Leonor Mendes de Barros in São Paulo, SP, Brazil to participate in a 16-week double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled trial designed to examine the effect of soy dietary isoflavone supplementation on clinical biomarkers of cardiovascular health and serum changes in lipid profile and fasting glucose.

Inclusion criteria were postmenopausal women between 40 and 60 years of age, who had had their last menstrual period longer than 12 months ago and received a follicle-stimulating hormone dose greater than 30mIU/mL, had estradiol levels lower than 20pg/ml and who had not been on any type of hormonal treatment during the previous six months and were not currently using lipid lowering drugs, antidiabetic medication, soybean derived products, or herbal supplements. The exclusion criteria were antecedent of hysterectomy, chronic gastrointestinal disorder, any contra-

indication for hormone therapy or for participation in a conflicting clinical trial. Finally, women were excluded if they had a known allergy or hypersensitivity to soy or cow milk or were not willing to avoid soy products for the 16 weeks of the study. The study was conducted between January and October 2007. The Research Ethics Committee approved the protocol, and all participants provided a signed informed consent form.

### **Randomization and blinding**

After initial screening, 60 women were assigned to the three different treatments in a sequence determined by a computerized random-number generator. All patients received a numerical randomized envelope, with a letter inside labeled #1, #2 or #3, corresponding to hormone therapy, isoflavone 90mg per day and placebo, respectively. During the study, the subjects and study personnel were not informed about the order of treatment. Study drugs were packaged in 30-day flasks. The follow-up was conducted by a gynecologist who did not participate in the screening part of this study or in the distribution of the drugs.

### **Intervention**

The women were randomly assigned to one of three treatment groups, with daily oral intakes as follows:

- Hormone therapy (n=20): one tablet of estradiol 1mg + noretisterone acetate 0.5mg (Activelle®, Medley Pharmaceuticals, Campinas, SP, Brazil) associated with 2 portions/day of placebo powder.

- Isoflavone group (n=20): 2 portions/day of a food powder with Isoflavone 45mg/portion totalizing 90mg of isoflavone/day (Previna®, Sanavita Functional Foods, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil) and one placebo tablet.
- Placebo group (n = 20): one placebo tablet and 2 portions/day of placebo powder.

The isoflavone intervention (Previna®, Sanavita Functional Foods, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil) consisted of 20 g/portion of a food powder containing 12g of soy protein and 45mg total isoflavones (26.5mg aglycones) to be mixed with 200ml of any beverage. The soy intervention contained approximately 8mg total daidzein, 15mg total genistein and 3.5mg total glycitein. The placebo powder (Sanavita Functional Foods) contained 20g of maltodextrin, looked identical to the soy powder and contained the same nutrients and calories, other than isoflavones and soy protein. Both supplements also contained a calcium carbonate 488 mg/portion and a hydrolyzed collagen 1.2/portion. The supplement was taken twice a day for a total of 16 weeks. The powder composition is detailed in table A.

The placebo tablet was taken once a day, looked identical to the hormone tablet and was produced by Medley Pharmaceuticals.

## **Measurements**

At the screening visit, women answered a standardized questionnaire, which ascertained information about demographic characteristics including age, ethnicity, education level and social status. Women were also queried about reproductive antecedents, age at menopause, time since menopause, use of medication, cigarette smoking history and frequency of alcohol use. Height was measured to the nearest

0.5cm and weight to nearest 0.1kg, in light clothing and without shoes. Body mass index was calculated as weight (in Kg)/height (in m<sup>2</sup>). Blood pressure was measured with a mercury sphygmomanometer after the participant had been seated quietly for at least five minutes. The waist/hip ratio was calculated using the minimum perimeter between the lowest rib and the anterior superior iliac crest as the waist measure, and the maximum perimeter at the gluteus as the hip measure<sup>15</sup>.

Data were collected in the three groups at baseline and at sixteen weeks of study. Blood was drawn for total lipid levels, lipoprotein levels and glucose analysis after women had fasted for 12 hours overnight. Plasma glucose was measured by a glucose oxidase assay. Plasma total cholesterol and triglyceride levels were measured using enzymatic techniques, and lipoproteins were determined according to the National Institute of Health lipid research clinics method (commercial kits by Roche). The interrun coefficients of variation were 1.5% (TGs), 0.8% (TC) and 1.3% (HDLc). The LDL cholesterol was calculated using the Friedwald Equation:  $LDL\ cholesterol = total\ cholesterol - HDL\ cholesterol - (triglycerides/5)$ . The Castelli I index was calculated as the ratio between total cholesterol and HDL-cholesterol, and the Castelli II index as the ratio between LDL-cholesterol and HDL-cholesterol<sup>16</sup>.

## **Compliance**

Compliance was assessed by self-report of the number of packets of product missed, which was then converted to a percentage of the prescribed packets that were ingested. The compliance was high (99.5%) and there were not any dropouts during the study in any of the three groups.

## **Statistical analysis**

Data were analyzed according to the intention-to-treat principle, including all original participants in the group to which they were randomly assigned. Data of epidemiologic and clinical characteristics were analyzed including Chi-Square test, Fisher's exact test, non-parametric test of Kruskal-Wallis and analysis of variance (ANOVA). The results shown as mean with the observations at baseline and after treatment were compared, in the same group, with paired Student's t test and Wilcoxon test. Intragroup and intergroup differences were evaluated using the ANOVA variance analysis, followed by the Tukey test, and non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by the Mann-Whitney test<sup>17</sup>. Results were considered statistically significant when an alpha error (*p* values) was less than 0.05. SAS Version 9.1.3 (SAS Institute Inc., Carey, NC, USA) was used to perform the analyses<sup>18</sup>.

## **Power calculation for sample size determination**

Sample size was based on standard power simulations, admitting a 5% threshold for alpha (type I error probability) and adopting a power of 80%. Based on previous studies, subjects selected for the isoflavone treatment had a mean difference in HDL-cholesterol baseline value and after treatment of 4.1 and a standard deviation of 6.7<sup>19</sup>. The sample size to establish this difference is 23 subjects, so that with a pool of 20 patients and an alpha error of 5% we have approximately 74% power to detect the difference. Following the estimation of this statistical analysis, our study had sufficient statistical power to detect real effects, so our findings can be considered reliable.

## Results

A total of 1,520 patients were screened in both study centers in order to select 60 participants. The study was conducted in a tertiary reference center and its subjects were patients that presented, besides the climacteric syndrome, great incidence of associated pathologies, a fact that caused difficulties for inclusion of patients and lengthened the necessary period to achieve 60 eligible subjects. Women assisted at menopause outpatient clinics were invited to answer a check list in order to meet the study's criteria. The majority of women screened were excluded because they did not meet inclusion criteria (95%) and because some of them had no interest in participating in the study (5%). Most of them (n=1370) were excluded in the first pre-randomization visit and the main reasons were: 54% - hypertension; 40% - obesity; 28% - hysterectomy; 22% - metabolic syndrome; 8% - diabetes mellitus; in addition, 30% had some type of gynecological cancer and 40% were on hormone therapy or non-hormonal therapy for climacteric syndrome (more than one condition per patient). At the second pre-randomization visit, 90 women were considered ineligible and the reasons were: screening altered for endometrial thickness, some altered findings in the mammography, estradiol level higher than 20 pg/ml and lipid profile and/or fasting glucose with high levels, necessitating immediate treatment with specific drugs. At the randomization visit, the remaining 60 women were equally randomized into the three groups, as illustrated in Figure 1. These groups were observed for 16 weeks and there were no dropouts or lost to follow-up.

Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics of the participants by intervention group. There were no significant differences between the groups. The average age was 52.4 ( $\pm 3.9$ ) years. Women were on average 4.1 ( $\pm 3.3$ ) years post-menopause and the

mean age at menopause was 48 ( $\pm$  3.7) years. The average education level was 6.8 ( $\pm$  4.1) years.

Cardiovascular risk parameters such as waist circumference, circumference of the hips, waist / hip ratio, and systolic and diastolic blood pressure did not change over the period of treatment in the three groups. There was weight and body mass index increase only in the placebo group that showed an average increase of 1.3 kg over the 16 weeks of the study. When we compared the effect of treatment among the groups, there were no statistically significant differences (Table 2).

At the end of the 16-week treatment, total cholesterol plasma levels showed 11.3% decrease in the hormone therapy group, but the isoflavone and placebo showed no changes. LDL serum levels decreased 18.6% in the group that received HT and there was no change in the other groups. Plasma levels of triglycerides, HDL and glucose did not change in any of the groups. The indices of Castelli I and II showed a positive relationship only in the group that used hormone therapy, with a reduction of 15.9% and 21.7% respectively (Table 3 and Figures 2 and 3).

## **Discussion**

The results show that the dietary soy supplement did not have a significant favorable effect on cardiovascular health biomarkers, compared with HT use. Of all the clinical markers evaluated, only weight and body mass index were slightly increased in the placebo group (1.3kg). The results obtained indicate that hormonal changes taking place in the transition to menopause bring an increase in weight and BMI. Studies have shown that naturally menopausal women have significantly higher BMI than women treated with HT in the menopausal period<sup>7,20</sup>. The increase of BMI following menopause

is related to ovarian hormone deficiencies, in particular, estrogen deficiency<sup>20</sup>. HT protects women against an increase in BMI; perhaps because of this the women in this study who received placebo had an increase in BMI and in contrast the use of HT did not change BMI, the same occurring with isoflavone use. Maesta et al, 2007<sup>21</sup>, conducted a randomized controlled trial with 46 postmenopausal women who received 25g of soy protein, associated or not with resistance training, regarding body composition and lipids. They found no increase in body mass index, waist circumference and body fat in women who received the soy protein<sup>21</sup>.

The results of this double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled trial do not support the hypothesis that isoflavones from soy protein have beneficial effects on plasma lipids in post-menopausal women. In this study, there was an increase in HDL-cholesterol (10.2%) and a slight decrease in LDL (-1.9%) and total cholesterol (-0.7%) in soy groups, but these differences from baseline were not statistically significant. These results are similar to previous studies aimed at menopausal women who received soy dietary supplement, which did not demonstrate any favorable effect on lipid profile<sup>8,11,12,20</sup>. Our findings are also consistent with observations of four previous trials using purified soy-derived isoflavones tablets with doses ranging from 55 to 150mg/dl<sup>13,22-24</sup>.

Some significant trials reported a generally consistent finding in support of the beneficial role of soy foods or protein in lipid profiles. Anderson et al., 1995<sup>9</sup> published an important meta-analysis including 38 trials observing a decrease in serum lipids total cholesterol (9.3%), LDL-cholesterol (12.9%) and triglycerides (10.5%), and an increase in HDL-cholesterol (2.4%). A meta-analysis by Zhan and Ho<sup>10</sup> of 23 randomized clinical trials conducted from 1995 to 2002 demonstrated that the intake of soy protein

containing isoflavones was associated with a better lipid profile: a 3.77% decrease in serum total cholesterol, 5.25% in LDL-cholesterol and 7.27% in triglycerides, and a significant 3.03% increase in serum HDL-cholesterol. These findings are generally consistent with published individual reports, in which 70%-90% of trials showed an association between intake of soy protein containing isoflavones and change in lipid concentrations.

Research studies have suggested that the beneficial effects of soy might be due to the isoflavone activity<sup>25</sup>, but not all studies have reported a cholesterol-lowering effect of isoflavones<sup>26</sup>. Some investigators have used a variety of protocols, including a range of isolated soy proteins, differing doses of isoflavones, differing trial lengths, and different population subgroups in an attempt to delineate the components of the soy protein matrix, doses, and circumstances whereby soy could be effective in improving human lipid profiles.

Possible explanations for our findings and the meta-analysis reported by Zhan and Ho<sup>10</sup> may be due to gender, since the more significant reductions of total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol were observed in men rather than in women; in pre-menopausal rather than in post-menopausal women and in hyperlipidemic women rather than normal lipidemic women<sup>27</sup>. However, when comparing isoflavone with low dose HT, this last intervention was able to reduce the lipid profile also in normal lipidemic post-menopausal women in a period of 16 weeks. Some research has been carried out about the database on the isoflavone content of foods<sup>28,29</sup>. Depending on the kind of food or dietary supplement, we can have different sources of isoflavones measuring in “mg of total isoflavones/g of soy protein”<sup>30</sup>. The richest alimentary isoflavone source, soy protein (with 1 to 3 mg of isoflavone/gram of soy protein), was employed in this study<sup>31</sup>

and the proportion of isoflavone and soy protein contained in the studied dietary supplement was 3.75mg/g soy protein (45mg total isoflavone/12g of soy protein), considered an intermediate source of isoflavones<sup>32</sup>. The second richest alimentary source of isoflavone is the raw soybean, which contains 1g of isoflavone/gram of soy protein, but with more than 90% of it as glycosides, a non bioactive form. In order to transform glycosides into aglycone, its bioactive form, the presence of intestinal bacteria<sup>33</sup> is essential. The ability to convert daidzein into equol, also fundamental, occurs only in 30% to 50% of the general population, depending on the probiotic intestinal bacteria<sup>33-35</sup>. The benefit of isoflavones may be limited only to adults who produce equol, a more potent estrogenic isoflavone that is absorbed along with unconverted genistein and daidzein<sup>33,35</sup>. This is an important consideration in clinical trials to determine the equol status, which is not observed in the majority of the publications. In summary, the conflicting results obtained in studies of isoflavones are due to differences in the supplement form, intake amount, individual absorption ability, gender, previous lipid profile and genetic factors.

The values of serum cholesterol tend to increase in women who are approaching menopause or are menopausal; this fact must be associated with estradiol and the increase is around 19%<sup>2,36</sup>. Menopause has also been found to be associated with feedback insensitivity to estrogens<sup>10,13</sup>. Therefore, the mild estrogenic effect of intake of isoflavone doses/day may be inadequate to counteract the postmenopausal increase in cholesterol. The real mechanisms for the effects of soy isoflavones on lipid profile are still unknown<sup>25</sup>. Isoflavones contained in intact soy protein may serve as natural selective estrogen receptor modulators and exert an effect on lipid metabolism through their biological similarities to estrogens and estrogen-receptor-dependent gene

expression. Other possible mechanisms include their effect on hepatic lipase activity and adipose tissue or act on upregulation of LDL receptors and induce gene expression of several enzymes and proteins important in lipid metabolism<sup>10,25</sup>. Other studies on the optimal dosages and effects of isoflavones on lipid metabolism in postmenopausal women would be required.

Some critics might question the length of time of use of soy isoflavones as too short to elicit a satisfactory clinical response<sup>37,38</sup>. However, other authors observed that the most significant lowering effect of isoflavone soy protein contents on lipid profile occurred within the initial short period of isoflavone exposure, and the extent of the lipid lowering effect decreased as the duration of the intervention increased. This fact can be attributed to a physiologic adaptation mechanism to more prolonged supplementation, by not paying attention to the diet or lower adherence in prolonged periods of intervention<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, the sixteen-week length of intervention time was satisfactory to induce effects on lipid profiles.

The study of fasting glucose in this trial had no significant change in any group. The menopausal transition is accompanied by a decrease in insulin secretion and hepatic insulin clearance<sup>39</sup>. Reduced estrogen levels have been shown to foster insulin resistance in animal studies<sup>40</sup>. Observational studies and clinical trials have reported the beneficial effects of estrogen therapy on glucose homeostasis<sup>41-43</sup>. Soy isoflavones, with structural similarity to estrogens, may also exert their biological effects through estrogen-mediated mechanisms and might be beneficial for glucose homeostasis and alleviation of diabetes<sup>44</sup>. In a recent trial published by Ho et al., 2007<sup>13</sup> moderate but significant differences were observed in the changes and percentage of changes in fasting glucose among the studied groups, but the effects were much more apparent in women with high

baseline fasting glucose concentration (> 100mg/dL) than in those with lower baseline values (< 90mg/dL). In our trial, the mean fasting glucose was lower than 100mg/dL and this may be a possible cause for our intervention not to significantly change fasting glucose. The real influence of soy isoflavones on serum glucose remains uncertain.

The measurements of Castelli index I and II had the intention of better assessing the atherogenic risks in the studied population<sup>16</sup>. Our results demonstrated that only the group that received HT had a favorable relationship in order to reduce Castelli Index I and II. This fact may be useful to reduce cardiovascular risk disease, since the Castelli index is a cardiovascular risk biomarker<sup>45,46</sup>.

The North American Menopause Society is cautious about recommending foods or supplements that contain isoflavones. Some professionals or even the media have recommended isoflavones, especially for the cardiovascular benefits of these foods, but the observed health effects cannot be clearly attributed to isoflavones alone<sup>47-49</sup>.

There was no discontinuous subject in our study; this is important for our intention to do an optimal statistical analysis. Sample size calculation was based on the literature, especially the study of Han and collaborators where patients undergoing isoflavone treatment show a 4.1 difference in the average levels of HDL before and after treatment, with a 6.7 standard deviation<sup>19</sup>. Considering a 5% statistical significance and 80% power the estimated sample size will be 23. In conclusion, for a 20 subject sample size and a 5% alpha, one will have 74% power to detect such difference among the group average results.

This double-blind, randomized, placebo controlled trial is one of the few studies that compare three intention-to-treat interventions, measuring the effect of low-dose hormone therapy, a dietary soy supplement and placebo in the same study, with the

purpose of determining the effects of isolated soy protein-containing isoflavones 90mg on several biomarkers of cardiovascular health in menopause, mainly serum lipoproteins, which are normally used as indexes for cardiovascular disease and compare the results with the effects of hormone therapy and placebo. Thus, this study may contribute to orient the intake of dietary soy supplement with a scientific base, avoiding indiscriminate use of any food containing isoflavone. In this trial, the dietary soy supplement did not show a significant favorable effect on clinical and laboratory biomarkers of cardiovascular risk in postmenopausal women, compared with HT use.

### **Conclusion**

This 16-week randomized controlled double-blind intention-to-treat trial indicates that consumption of a soy dietary supplement containing 90mg of isoflavones was not associated with a significantly effect on cardiovascular health biomarkers. The studied population was composed of postmenopausal women with previous normal lipid profile and probably that is one of the reasons for our findings. On the other hand, low-dose hormone therapy showed a significant beneficial effect on lipid profile. Future studies with long term interventions involving different baseline subject characteristics and inclusion of clinical end-points would be useful and desirable. Furthermore, equol status and probiotic agents associated with dietary soy supplement are also of great interest to try to explain individual differences.

### **Acknowledgments**

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**Table A: Dietary supplement composition**

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>	<b>Previna®</b>	<b>Placebo</b>
	<b>Serving Size 20g</b>	<b>Serving Size 20g</b>
Calories	70kcal = 294kJ	70kcal = 294kJ
Carbohydrate	4.4g	16g
Protein	13.2g	1.1g
Total fat	0g	0g
Saturated Fat	0g	0g
Trans fat	0g	0g
Cholesterol	0mg	0mg
Dietary fiber	0g	0g
Sodium	140mg	140mg
Calcium	488mg	488mg

**Table 1- Characteristics of the women by the intervention groups (n=60)**

Characteristics	Groups			
	HT	Soy	Placebo	p
<i>Age (mean)</i>	53.3	52.9	50.9	0.10*
Age at menopause (mean)	47.6	48.9	47.6	0.43**
Time since menopause (mean)	5.6	3.5	3.3	0.13**
Education (years)	6.6	7.6	6.3	0.73*
Color of the skin (%)				
White	65.0	40.0	70.0	0.11***
Non white	35.0	60.0	30.0	
Parity (%)				
Up to 2	45.0	65.0	40.0	0.33****
> 2	55.0	35.0	60.0	
Social status (%)				
A/B	40.0	55.0	45.0	0.62 ***
C/D/E	60.0	45.0	55.0	
Smoking habits (%)				
Smoker/ex-smoker	60.0	35.0	45.0	0.61****
Non smoker	40.0	65.0	55.0	

\**Anova test*

\*\**Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric test*

\*\*\**Chi square Test*

\*\*\*\**Fisher's Exact Test*

**Table 2 - Evaluation of anthropometric parameters and blood pressure at baseline and after 16 weeks according to the treatment group (Mean  $\pm$ SE)**

Variables	Groups	Baseline	16 weeks	p Intra group	p Inter group
<i>Weight (kg)</i>	HT <sup>b</sup>	63.5 (7,8)	64.0 (8.3)	0.17	0.25
	SOY <sup>a</sup>	65.3 (11.5)	65.6 (11.7)	0.47	
	Placebo <sup>b</sup>	64.2 (10.9)	65.5 (11.5)	<b>&lt; 0.01</b>	
<i>BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	HT <sup>b</sup>	26.3 (2.8)	26.6 (3.2)	0.14	0.32
	SOY <sup>a</sup>	26.8 (5)	26.9 (5.1)	0.40	
	Placebo <sup>a</sup>	26.8 (4)	27.2 (4.2)	<b>&lt; 0.01</b>	
<i>Waist Circumference</i>	HT <sup>a</sup>	85.7 (10.2)	85.2 (10.5)	0.42	0.43
	SOY <sup>a</sup>	86.0 (10.5)	85.2 (10,1)	0.20	
	Placebo <sup>a</sup>	86.4 (9.6)	86.3 (10.6)	0.93	
<i>Hip Circumference</i>	HT <sup>a</sup>	101.9 (7.7)	101.8 (7.6)	0.93	0.13
	SOY <sup>a</sup>	100.4 (7.8)	100.2 (7.5)	0.74	
	Placebo <sup>a</sup>	100.8 (7.5)	100.7 (8.1)	0.83	
<i>Waist/Hip Ratio</i>	HT <sup>a</sup>	0.9 (1.2)	0.8 (0.7)	0.53	0.43
	SOY <sup>a</sup>	0.8 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)	0.36	
	Placebo <sup>a</sup>	0.9 (0.1)	0.8 (0.1)	0.97	
<i>Systolic Blood Pressure</i>	HT <sup>b</sup>	117 (11)	118 (12)	0.79	0.56
	SOY <sup>b</sup>	126 (14)	122 (12)	0.93	
	Placebo <sup>b</sup>	125 (12)	126 (13)	0.89	
<i>Diastolic Blood Pressure</i>	HT <sup>b</sup>	76 (9)	76 (11)	1.0	0.54
	SOY <sup>b</sup>	79 (9)	77(9)	0.3	
	Placebo <sup>b</sup>	77 (9)	77 (8)	1.0	

<sup>a</sup> Student t Test; <sup>b</sup> Paired Wilcoxon Test

**Table 3 - Mean percentage variation (CI 95%) of lipid profile and glucose at baseline and follow up by treatment group**

<b>VARIABLES</b>	<b>HT (n=20)</b>	<b>SOY (n=20)</b>	<b>Placebo (n=20)</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Total Cholesterol*</b>	-11.3 (-15.3 ; -7.4)	-0.7 (-5.3 ; 4)	4.6 (-2 ; 11.2)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
<b>HDL - cholesterol</b>	8.3 (-0.1 ; 16.7)	10.2 (-1.9 ; 22.2)	6.1 (-1.5 ; 13.6)	0.89
<b>LDL- cholesterol*</b>	-18.6 (-26 ; -11.2)	-1.9 (-8.6 ; 4.8)	5.5 (-4.9 ; 15.9)	<b>&lt;0.01</b>
<b>Triglycerides*</b>	-0.1 (-17.6 ; 17.4)	-1.1 (-13.7 ; 11.5)	21.3 (-15.6 ; 58.1)	0.32
<b>Glucose*</b>	-0.8 (-5.1 ; 3.5)	3.1 (-0.3 ; 6.5)	0,5 (-4.5 ; 5.5)	0.40
<b>Castelli Index I<sup>&amp;</sup></b>	-15.9 (-23.6 ; -8.2)	-5.9 (-15.5 ; 3.7)	0.8 (-8.5 ; 10.2)	<b>0.02</b>
<b>Castelli Index II<sup>&amp;</sup></b>	-21.7 (-33.5 ; -9.8)	-6.1 (-18.4 ; 6.1)	1.8 (-10.5 ; 14.1)	<b>0.01</b>

<sup>&</sup>*Non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test (followed by Mann-Whitney test)*

*\*Co-variance ANOVA test (followed by Tukey test)*

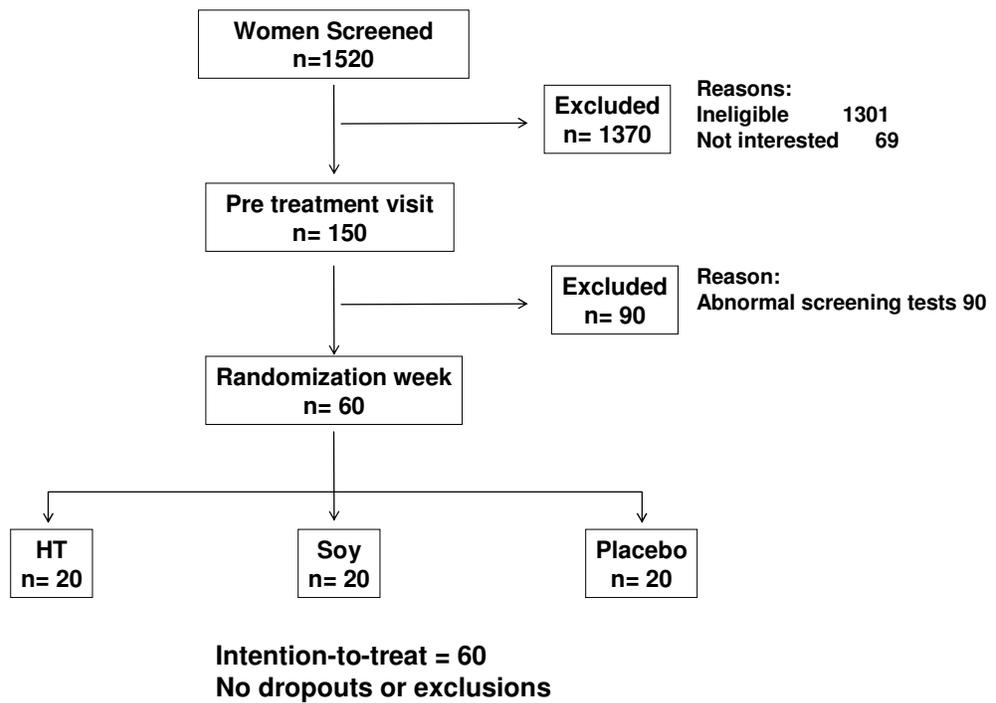
*p value for difference intergroups:*

*Total cholesterol: HT x Soy <0.01; HT x Placebo < 0,01; Soy x Placebo = 0,29*

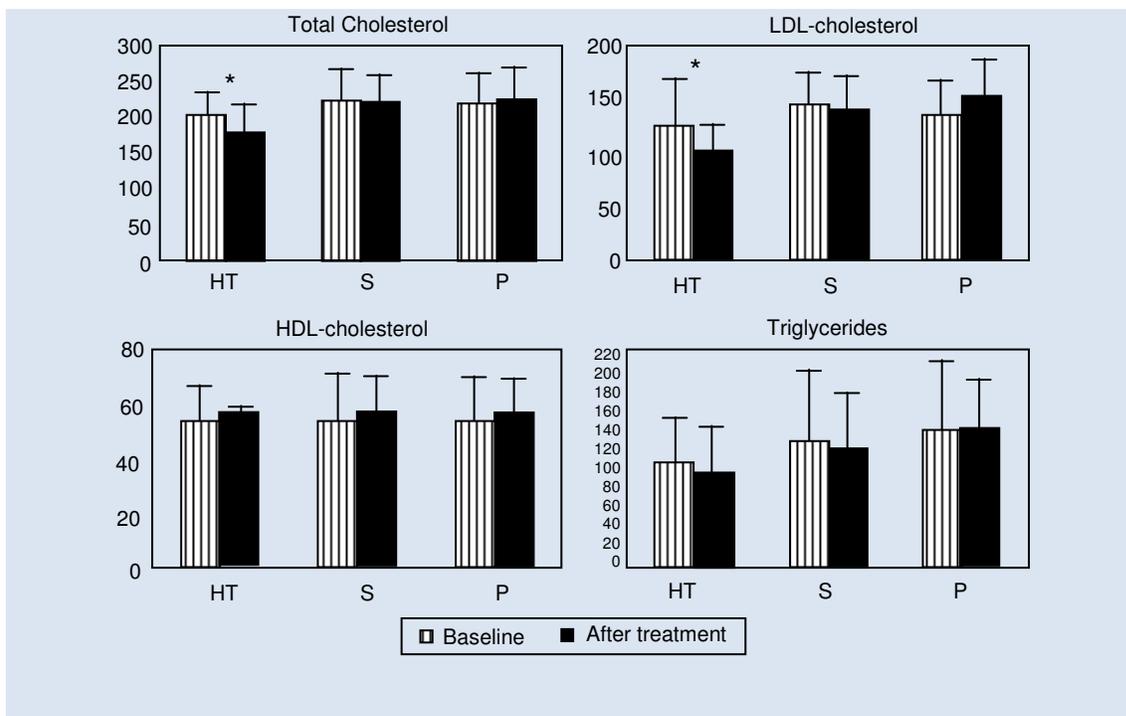
*LDL-cholesterol: HT x Soy = 0,01; HT x Placebo < 0,01; Soy x Placebo =0.39*

*Castelli Index I: HT x Soy = 0.22; HT x Placebo = 0.01; Soy x Placebo = 0.50*

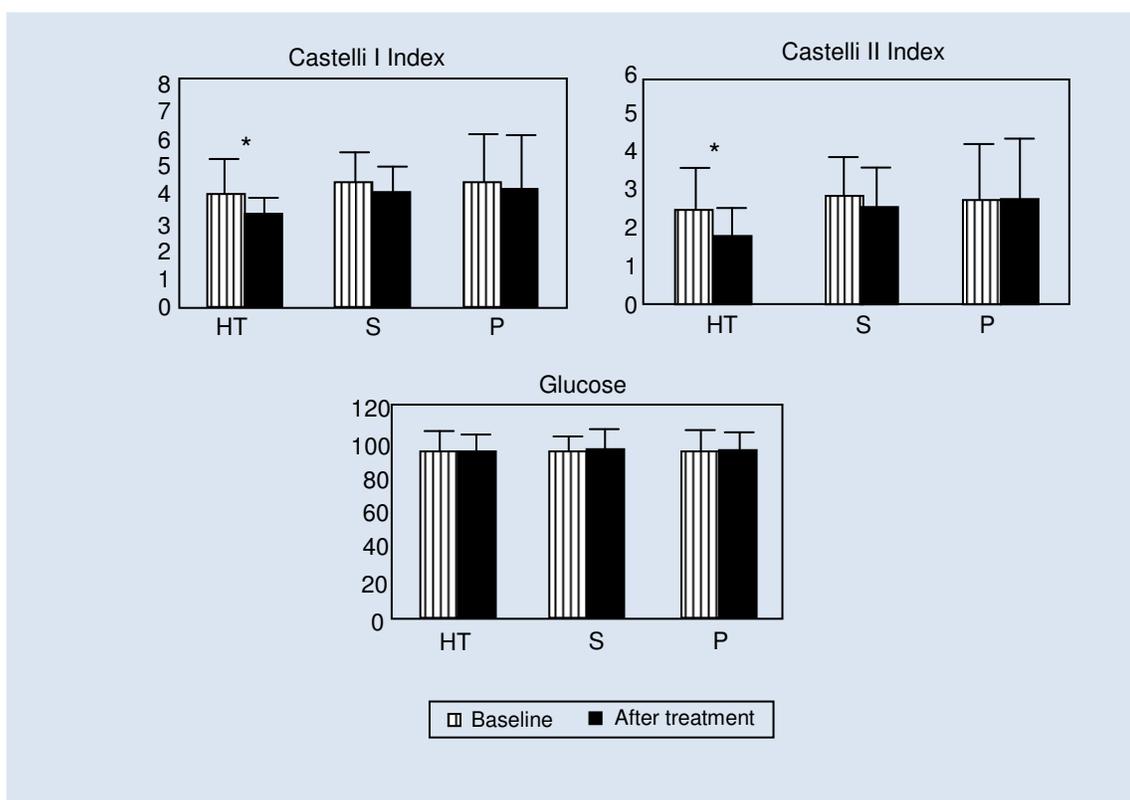
*Castelli Index II: HT x Soy = 0.14; HT x Placebo = 0.01; Soy x Placebo = 0.60*



**Figure 1: Participant flow diagram**



**Figure 2.** Concentrations of lipid profile at baseline and after treatment with hormone therapy (HT), soy (S) and placebo (P). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE \* $p < 0.001$



**Figure 3.** Concentrations of lipid profile (Castelli Index I and II) and glucose at baseline and after treatment with hormone therapy (HT), soy (S) and placebo (P). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SE \* $p < 0.001$

## 4. Discussão

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Os resultados mostraram que o suplemento alimentar de soja contendo 90mg/dia de isoflavona proporcionou benefício no tratamento dos sintomas relacionados ao climatério, principalmente uma melhora significativa nos sintomas de fogachos, dores articulares/musculares e secura vaginal de modo comparável ao uso da terapia hormonal. Quanto à avaliação em relação aos marcadores de risco cardiovascular, o uso do suplemento dietético não teve efeito favorável significativo sobre o perfil lipídico quando comparado ao uso da TH de baixa dosagem.

No Brasil, estudo de base populacional relatou a prevalência de ondas de calor de aproximadamente 70% em mulheres na peri e pós-menopausa, e que 80% das mulheres entre 45 a 60 anos de idade procuram os serviços de saúde para tratamento destes sintomas (Pedro et al., 2003). A terapia hormonal permanece como indicação principal e mais eficaz para o tratamento dos sintomas vasomotores e urogenitais do climatério e a Sociedade Brasileira de Climatério e as sociedades internacionais de menopausa aconselham o uso da menor dose efetiva (SOBRAC, 2004; NAMS, 2007; Pines et al., 2007). Após a

publicação dos resultados do estudo Women's Health Initiative (WHI), 2002, muitos médicos passaram a reconsiderar o uso da terapia de reposição hormonal para alívio dos sintomas vasomotores (Rossouw et al., 2002). O número de prescrições para a TH nos Estados Unidos diminuiu de 91 milhões, em 2001, para 57 milhões em 2003, e a média de diminuição de uso da TH foi de 30% a 66% (Majundar et al., 2004; Rolnick et al., 2005). Dados recentes de um grande estudo observacional que analisou o reinício da TH após o WHI, concluíram que apenas 16% das mulheres que descontinuaram a TH na ocasião do WHI, a reiniciaram subsequente e tenderam a usar o mesmo tipo e dose usada previamente, e as mulheres com co-morbidade associadas foram as menos prováveis de reiniciá-la (Newton et al., 2008). Um estudo realizado com ginecologistas do estado de São Paulo mostrou que a prescrição de terapia hormonal decresceu em 25,2% e que aproximadamente 46% dos ginecologistas começaram a prescrever isoflavona, tranqüilizantes e outras medicações naturais para os sintomas do climatério (Lazar et al., 2007). Muitas mulheres acham que os riscos da TH para os sintomas climatéricos podem se sobrepor aos benefícios e serem inaceitáveis, levando-as a requerer alternativas não hormonais para o tratamento de seus sintomas vasomotores.

Muito tem se falado das terapias alternativas com o objetivo de se evitar a TH, um dos estudos mais importantes é o Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN) que acompanhou mulheres utilizando 21 diferentes formas de terapia alternativa, sendo que 351 participantes (16,6%) estavam em uso de suplemento de soja, e observou seus efeitos sobre os sintomas vasomotores,

psicológicos e somáticos concluindo que o uso da maioria das terapias alternativas não está relacionado ao estado menopausal ou aos sintomas e sim a fatores sociodemográficos, co-morbidades e atitudes saudáveis, e salienta ainda que, devido ao grande número de mulheres que se utiliza de terapias alternativas, os médicos devem ficar atentos em identificar este uso a fim de evitar uma potencial interação medicamentosa (Gold et al., 2007; Bair et al., 2008). Dentre estas alternativas o consumo de soja tem sido relatado, inclusive pela Sociedade Norte-Americana de Menopausa, que tem a posição de considerar para alívio dos sintomas vasomotores de intensidade leve, mudanças no estilo de vida, associado ou não com suplemento alimentar com isoflavona, *black cohosh* e vitamina E (NAMS, 2004). No intuito de avaliar o consumo de isoflavona, um estudo em nosso meio mostrou que a média de consumo de isoflavona na alimentação foi de 9,9mg/dia, indicando que 95,1% das mulheres ingerem abaixo da referência utilizada (Borges, 2005), que foi de 60mg a 90mg/dia (Setchell e Cassidy, 1999).

O mecanismo de ação aventado é devido ao fato de a isoflavona ser estruturalmente semelhante ao estrogênio endógeno e competir pelo mesmo receptor, exercendo um efeito agonista ou antagonista, dependendo da concentração de isoflavona e estrogênio endógeno e do órgão-alvo específico envolvido na interação com os receptores para estrogênio (Albertazzi et al., 2002; Farrel, 2003). Os subtipos de receptores alfa e beta, distribuídos diferentemente nestes órgãos-alvo, são responsáveis por permitir esta ação da isoflavona, pois na pós-menopausa os receptores estão mais disponíveis,

favorecendo a ligação da isoflavona nos receptores beta, exercendo assim sua ação estrogênica (Marito et al., 2002). Quanto mais prolongado for o tratamento ou quanto maior for o período de hipoestrogenismo, verifica-se uma ação agonista mais evidente e um melhor efeito estrogênico que se traduz na melhora clínica dos sintomas do climatério (Wuttke et al., 2007).

Muitas publicações existem na literatura médica a respeito do uso de isoflavonas no tratamento dos sintomas climatérios e na prevenção de doenças crônicas degenerativas. As publicações envolvem o uso de alimentos ou mesmo medicamento industrializado, mas os resultados são conflitantes e muitas vezes contraditórios, por várias razões. Dentre estes fatores é importante ressaltar a proporção de isoflavona e proteína de soja contida no suplemento alimentar, que neste estudo foi de 3,75mg por grama de proteína de soja, sendo considerada uma fonte intermediária de isoflavona (Anderson et al., 1999; Beecher et al., 2000; Horn-Ross et al., 2000). Também foi utilizada neste estudo uma das fontes alimentares mais ricas em isoflavona existente, pois a proteína de soja possui em média de 1mg a 3mg de isoflavona/g de proteína de soja (Tsangalis et al., 2008). O segundo alimento mais rico em isoflavona seria o grão da soja cru, que confere 1g de isoflavona a cada grama de proteína de soja; porém mais de 90% da isoflavona contida no grão da soja existem na forma de glicosídeo, ou seja, na forma não bioativa. Para que o glicosídeo seja transformado em aglicona, a sua forma bioativa é essencial à presença de bactérias da flora intestinal (Setchell et al., 2002) e à conversão da daidzeína em equol, o que só ocorre em apenas de 30% a 50% da população

em geral, dependendo das bactérias probióticas intestinais (Rafii et al., 2003; Palácios et al., 2008; Tsangalis et al., 2008). Portanto, os benefícios das isoflavonas podem estar limitados apenas aos adultos que produzam o equol (Tsangalis et al., 2008), pois a efetividade clínica da proteína de soja depende da habilidade da biotransformação das isoflavonas de soja em uma isoflavona com maior potência estrogênica, o equol (Tsangalis et al., 2008). Isto é uma consideração importante para que os futuros ensaios clínicos determinem o status equol, o que ainda não é observado na imensa maioria das publicações.

Em relação aos sintomas somáticos do Menopause Rating Scale, obtivemos uma melhora significativa dos sintomas vasomotores e de queixas articulares e/ou musculares. A intensidade das ondas de calor diminuiu nos grupos da TH e da soja, com diferença estatística significativa em relação ao placebo. Em nosso meio, estudos recentes encontraram resultados semelhantes utilizando 100 a 120mg ao dia de isoflavona em forma de cápsulas (Kaari et al., 2006; Nahas et al., 2007). Por outro lado, Sena et al., 2007, concluíram que a isoflavona de soja não foi mais efetiva que o placebo para a redução das ondas de calor em mulheres na pós-menopausa. Na revisão da Cochrane Library, dos nove estudos que utilizaram suplemento alimentar com isoflavona de soja, sete não tiveram efeito favorável sobre sintomas vasomotores (Lethaby et al., 2007). Isto poderia reforçar a hipótese de que a proteína de soja utilizada neste estudo estava com dose e propriedades físico-químicas adequadas. As queixas articulares e musculares melhoraram nos grupos TH e soja, com poder estatístico em relação ao placebo, o que vai de

encontro a outros estudos (Albertazzi, 2006; Kaari et al., 2006). Porém, o real mecanismo pelo qual a isoflavona age nesta variável ainda não está estabelecido.

No subitem do Menopause Rating Scale relacionado aos sintomas urogenitais, houve uma melhora significativa no ressecamento vaginal no grupo da soja comparável ao grupo TH. Alguns estudos que avaliaram os efeitos da isoflavona no epitélio vaginal também evidenciaram resultados semelhantes, além de uma melhora no índice de maturação vaginal (Chiechi et al., 2003; Uesugi et al., 2003). Por outro lado, um estudo randomizado duplo-cego com 79 participantes usando 120mg de isoflavona por seis meses não encontrou efeito significativo da isoflavona de soja sobre a mucosa vaginal (Kaari et al., 2006). Em relação aos outros sintomas avaliados no subitem urogenital, como os sintomas urinários e sexuais, nenhuma melhora foi evidenciada, independentemente do tipo de tratamento utilizado e consistente com a literatura revisada (Dog, 2005). Porém, um recente estudo prospectivo randomizado, placebo-controlado e duplo-cego com 75 mulheres tratadas com 100mg de isoflavona de soja por 24 semanas, mostrou uma melhora significativa na esfera do desejo e dor quando avaliadas pelo Índice de Função Sexual Feminina (FSFI) (Hernandez et al., 2008).

No subitem dos sintomas psicológicos houve melhora durante o tratamento em todos os grupos estudados de forma semelhante. A literatura vigente ressalta a dificuldade em se avaliar as mudanças na esfera psicoemocional, pois os sintomas desta área são de causas multifatoriais que

envolvem variáveis intrínsecas e extrínsecas, e não apenas relacionados ao *status* hormonal (File et al., 2001; Kreijkamp et al., 2004). Estudos recentes que avaliaram a influência independente da menopausa sobre o humor, incluindo depressão, ansiedade e outros sintomas psicológicos, não demonstraram relação causal deste período de transição com os transtornos de humor (Cohen et al., 2006; Vesco et al., 2007). A melhora clínica dos grupos avaliados pode ter sofrido influência de fatores psicológicos relacionados ao próprio fato de as mulheres terem recebido maior atenção da equipe envolvida, e isto também tê-las motivado a cuidarem-se melhor, contribuindo para os resultados positivos.

Na avaliação dos sintomas climatéricos, o instrumento utilizado foi o Menopause Rating Scale, que evidenciou uma homogeneidade da intensidade dos sintomas na população estudada no início da intervenção. Acreditamos que o uso do Menopause Rating Scale foi satisfatório na intenção de promover um maior conhecimento desta ferramenta, um questionário de qualidade de vida relacionado à saúde que pode ser auto-administrado e que parece diminuir o erro por vezes cometido por profissionais de saúde quando aplicam o questionário (Schneider et al., 2002a). O MRS é um tipo de avaliação quantitativa capaz de avaliar os sintomas climatéricos, o sucesso dos diferentes tratamentos e comparar os resultados ao longo do tempo (Schneider et al., 2000b). A versão em português foi validada no Brasil seguindo metodologia e recomendações internacionais para adaptação cultural e lingüística dos instrumentos descritos para qualidade de vida relacionada à saúde (HRQoL) (Schneider e Behre, 2002).

Os efeitos colaterais analisados neste estudo e que poderiam ser atribuídos à isoflavona e/ou ao suplemento alimentar de soja não foram significativos e comparáveis com a literatura revisada. Houve uma boa aceitação do suplemento alimentar e isto pode ter contribuído para que não houvesse nenhuma desistência neste estudo. É importante observar que foi utilizado um suplemento alimentar de sabor neutro; portanto as mulheres podiam misturá-lo em sua bebida de preferência. Na revisão da The Cochrane Libray de 2007, a maioria dos estudos não mostra diferença significativa na prevalência de possíveis efeitos colaterais (Lethaby et al., 2007). Em outra revisão sistemática com 178 estudos, 49 deles relataram efeitos colaterais como sintomas gastrointestinais - que foi o mais freqüente -, alterações menstruais, queixas músculo-esqueléticas, cefaléia, tontura e *rash* cutâneo. Porém, a taxa de efeitos adversos foi similar entre o grupo da soja e o grupo-controle (8,6% vs 7,2%) e não teve relação com o tipo de soja consumida nem com a dose da proteína de soja (Balk et al., 2005). É importante salientar que neste estudo a mastalgia e o sangramento foram similares entre os grupos da soja e da TH, provavelmente devido ao uso da TH ser de baixa dose e, portanto, com discretos efeitos colaterais. As evidências dos estudos em humanos, em relação aos efeitos colaterais, não são preocupantes apesar das discretas intolerâncias gastrointestinais, principalmente em pessoas alérgicas à proteína de soja, porém as conclusões são limitadas devido à heterogeneidade de produtos de soja e diferentes formulações (Balk et al., 2005; Lethaby et al., 2007).

Os resultados deste estudo randomizado, duplo-cego e controlado não sustentam a hipótese de que a isoflavona da proteína de soja tenha um efeito benéfico sobre o perfil lipídico na mulher na pós-menopausa. Estes resultados são semelhantes aos de estudos anteriores que também não demonstraram efeito favorável sobre o perfil lipídico (Wei et al., 1995; Ho et al., 2007) . Duas metas-análises relatam um papel benéfico dos alimentos ou proteína de soja sobre o perfil lipídico, observando uma diminuição nos níveis séricos do colesterol total (3,7% a 9,3%), LDL-colesterol (5,2% a 12,9%), triglicérides (7,2% a 10,5%) e um aumento no HDL-colesterol (2,4% a 3,0%) (Anderson et al., 1995; Zhan e Ho, 2005). Estes achados são geralmente condizentes com os das publicações individuais, em que 70% a 90% dos trabalhos mostram uma associação entre a ingestão de proteína de soja contendo isoflavonas e mudanças nas concentrações lipídicas. As pesquisas sugerem que o efeito benéfico da soja se deva ao efeito da atividade da isoflavona em possuir ação antioxidante, e por isso os resultados são diversos, dependendo da concentração de isoflavona por grama de proteína da soja (Anderson et al., 1999; Beecher et al., 2000; Horn-Ross et al., 2000; Tikkanen e Adlercreutz, 2000). A diferença nestes resultados contraditórios pode ser explicada porque alguns pesquisadores utilizam uma ampla variedade de protocolos, incluindo uma gama de isolados protéicos de soja, diferentes doses de isoflavonas e diferentes subgrupos populacionais, com a intenção de delinear os componentes da proteína de soja, doses e circunstâncias nas quais a soja possa ser efetiva em melhorar o perfil lipídico nos seres humanos. Estas diferenças também podem ser explicadas por outros fatores como o gênero,

pois a maior redução do colesterol total e LDL-colesterol foi observada em homens que em mulheres; o *status* hormonal, porque em mulheres na pré-menopausa a melhora do perfil lipídico foi mais acentuada do que em mulheres na pós-menopausa e devido ao perfil lipídico prévio à intervenção, pois em mulheres hiperlipidêmicas os resultados foram melhores (Zhan e Ho, 2005). Estas considerações nos motivam a pensar em pesquisas futuras, adequando doses e perfil populacional que possam ter resultados possivelmente mais efetivos no metabolismo lipídico da mulher na pós-menopausa.

O tempo de intervenção para suscitar uma resposta clínica satisfatória pode ser questionado, porém alguns autores observaram que o efeito da isoflavona em diminuir o perfil lipídico ocorre com mais intensidade no período inicial da exposição (Quella et al., 2000; Scambia et al., 2000). Este fato pode ser atribuído por haver um mecanismo de adaptação fisiológica em suplementações prolongadas, pela diminuição da aderência ao tratamento e também por descuido na orientação dietética (Zhan e Ho, 2005).

Os resultados deste estudo não mostraram mudança significativa na glicemia de jejum. Estudos recentes relacionam o climatério com uma diminuição da secreção de insulina, ganho de peso e síndrome metabólica (Rosano et al., 2007; Lobo, 2008). Estudos observacionais e ensaios clínicos relatam um efeito benéfico da terapia estrogênica na homeostase da glicemia (Gabal et al., 1997; Espeland et al., 1998; Jayagopal et al., 2002). Ho et al., 2007, através de um estudo duplo cego, randomizado com 203 mulheres na pós-menopausa, observaram uma moderada, porém significativa, diferença nas

mudanças da glicemia de jejum entre os grupos estudados, principalmente nas mulheres com glicemia de jejum maior que 100mg/dl. Neste estudo a média da glicemia de jejum foi menor que 100mg/dl e isto pode ter sido a causa de não encontrarmos mudança na glicemia de jejum. A real influência da isoflavona de soja sobre a glicose sérica permanece ainda incerta.

Recentemente, o Comitê de Nutrição da Sociedade Americana de Cardiologia revisou 22 estudos randomizados com uso de isoflavonas e concluiu que a melhora nos fatores de risco cardiovasculares foi muito pobre, com a diminuição de apenas 3% no LDL-colesterol e nenhuma ação evidente sobre o HDL-colesterol, triglicérides e pressão arterial; por estas razões, esse comitê não recomenda o uso de isoflavona na forma de suplemento alimentar ou medicações (Sacks et al., 2006). Em contrapartida, o uso de alimentos de soja como tofu, grãos de soja e carne de soja, poderia beneficiar o sistema cardiovascular por conter gorduras poliinsaturadas, fibras, vitaminas e minerais, substituindo a proteína animal que é rica em gorduras saturadas e colesterol, e reduzindo a ingestão de carboidrato (Sacks et al., 2006).

Estudos sobre o uso de terapias alternativas durante a menopausa indicam que o principal fator que leva as mulheres a procurar estas terapias, além dos sintomas relacionados à menopausa, é a própria percepção deste estado menopausal aliado à opinião de que as terapias alternativas são inócuas e isentas de efeitos colaterais (Gollschewski et al., 2008). Desta forma, é importante salientar que a mulher deve sempre obter informações e conhecimento sobre climatério com seu profissional de saúde, e os pesquisadores devem fornecer substrato, com estudos bem delineados, a

respeito da eficácia e segurança dos tratamentos alternativos, o que inclui a isoflavona (Gollschewski et al., 2008). Muitos profissionais e até os meios de comunicação têm recomendado isoflavonas, tanto para o tratamento dos sintomas vasomotores quanto para os supostos benefícios cardiovasculares destes alimentos, porém os efeitos saudáveis não podem ser atribuídos apenas ao uso da isoflavona (NAMS, 2004; Sacks et al., 2006). Deste modo, este estudo pode contribuir na intenção de orientar o uso do suplemento alimentar de soja com bases científicas, evitando o uso indiscriminado de alimentos contendo isoflavonas no que se refere à saúde cardiovascular.

Este ensaio clínico randomizado, duplo-cego e controlado é um dos poucos estudos que comparam três intervenções com o propósito de determinar as implicações da proteína de soja em forma de suplemento dietético (90mg de isoflavona) sobre os sintomas climatéricos e marcadores de risco cardiovascular na menopausa, e comparar os resultados com os efeitos da TH sendo, portanto, um estudo bem conduzido, com nível evidência recomendado e que utilizou instrumento validado.

Em resumo, os resultados deste estudo mostraram que o uso de um suplemento alimentar à base de proteína de soja contendo 90mg de isoflavona mostrou boa aceitabilidade, poucos efeitos colaterais e um efeito benéfico sobre os sintomas somáticos e genitais no climatério, podendo ser uma opção para muitas mulheres que decidem não utilizar terapia hormonal para o controle dos sintomas relacionados à menopausa. Por outro lado, o uso deste suplemento alimentar não mostrou benefícios adicionais no que se refere aos marcadores clínicos ou laboratoriais de risco cardiovascular. O efeito benéfico da isoflavona

de soja sobre o risco de doença cardiovascular decorrente do próprio estado menopausal ainda não está completamente estabelecido, porém a melhora do perfil de risco cardiovascular deve ser pensada nesta fase da vida da mulher, principalmente naquelas com baixo risco aterogênico e que não necessitam de fármaco-terapia específica.

## 5. Conclusões

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**5.1.** O uso de suplemento alimentar à base de soja contendo 90 mg de isoflavonas mostrou eficácia comparável à da terapia hormonal no alívio dos fogachos, dores articulares/musculares e ressecamento vaginal em mulheres na pós-menopausa, e superior ao placebo, com boa aceitabilidade e poucos efeitos colaterais.

**5.2.** Do ponto de vista cardiovascular, o suplemento alimentar à base de soja contendo 90mg de isoflavonas não mostrou efeito favorável significativo nos marcadores clínicos e laboratoriais de risco cardiovascular em mulheres na pós-menopausa, quando comparado ao uso da TH.

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# 7. Anexos

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## 7.1. Anexo 1 – Randomização aleatorizada

CASOS	A	B	C
1	6	1	3
2	7	2	4
3	12	5	8
4	13	9	11
5	15	10	14
6	16	22	21
7	17	27	30
8	18	28	31
9	19	29	34
10	20	32	36
11	23	33	37
12	24	40	38
13	25	42	41
14	26	47	43
15	35	49	44
16	39	51	45
17	46	52	48
18	53	54	50
19	58	56	55
20	59	60	57

## 7.2. Ficha de Coleta de Dados

NOME: \_\_\_\_\_ N° REGISTRO: \_\_\_\_\_

Data: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ Grupo:

1) Idade: \_\_/\_\_

2) Cor:  
Branca / / Parda / / Mulata / /  
Negra / / Oriental / / Indígena / /

3) Escolaridade: \_\_/\_\_ Anos

4) Tempo de Menopausa: \_\_/\_\_ Anos

5) Idade à Menopausa: \_\_/\_\_

6) Tabagismo: /1/ Tabagista /2/ Não Tabagista /3/ Ex-tabagista

7) Drogas utilizadas: \_\_\_\_\_

### Exame Físico Geral:

8) Peso	/__/__/__/, /__/__/	Data: __/__/__	Início
		Data: __/__/__	Final
9) Altura	/__./__/__/	Data: __/__/__	Início
10) IMC		Data: __/__/__	Início
		Data: __/__/__	Final
11) Circunferência abdominal		Data: __/__/__	Início
		Data: __/__/__	Final
12) Circunferência do quadril		Data: __/__/__	Início
		Data: __/__/__	Final
13) Relação cintura/quadril:		Data: __/__/__	Início
		Data: __/__/__	Final
14) Pressão Arterial:			
Sistólica	/__/__/__/ mmHg	Data: __/__/__	Início
	/__/__/__/ mmHg	Data: __/__/__	Final
Diastólica	/__/__/__/ mmHg	Data: __/__/__	Início
	/__/__/__/ mmHg	Data: __/__/__	Final
15) Citologia Vaginal:	Pré Tto	__/__/__	_____
	Pós Tto	__/__/__	_____

116) pH Vaginal:

Pré Tto     \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Pós Tratamento     \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

---

17) Espessura Endometrial:

    \_/\_/\_/ Mm   Pré Tto     Data \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/ Mm   Pós Tto     Data \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Testes Laboratoriais

Pré Tto

Pós Tto

18) FSH

    \_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

19) E2

    \_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

20) Colesterol Total

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

21) Hdl

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

22) Ldl

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

23) Triglicérides

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

24) Glicemia de Jejum

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Data

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

    \_/\_/\_/\_\_\_\_\_

## Seção 1- Sintomas do Climatério

### 1.1) Índice Menopausal de Blatt e Kupperman

Os Escores dos Sintomas a serem preenchidos na Tabela são: \* Ausente-0,

\* Leves-1, \* Moderados-2, \* Intensos-3

		Data	Data	Data	Data	Data
Sintoma	Peso x Es.					
Ondas de Calor	4	=	=	=	=	=
Parestesia	2	=	=	=	=	=
Insônia	2	=	=	=	=	=
Nervosismo	2	=	=	=	=	=
Depressão	1	=	=	=	=	=
Vertigens	1	=	=	=	=	=
Fadiga	1	=	=	=	=	=
Artralgia/Mialgia	1	=	=	=	=	=
Cefaléia	1	=	=	=	=	=
Palpitação	1	=	=	=	=	=
Zumbido	1	=	=	=	=	=
Índice Menopáusico	-----					

**Resultados: Até 19 – Sintomas leves; de 20 a 35 – Sintomas moderados;**

**acima de 35 – Sintomas acentuados.**

## Seção 2- Sintomas Urogenitais

### Sintomas Urológicos

2.1) A Sra. sofre de perda da urina quando tosse, ri ou levanta peso, sempre, às vezes ou nunca?

/\_\_ / Sempre

/\_\_ / Às Vezes

/\_\_ / Nunca

### Sintomas Genitais:

Secura Vaginal

/\_\_ / Sim

/\_\_ / Não

Dor durante a relação

/\_\_ / Sim

/\_\_ / Não

## SEÇÃO 3 – CLASSIFICAÇÃO DO ESTRATO SOCIOECONÔMICO

Agora gostaria de fazer-lhe algumas perguntas sobre sua casa.

3.1) Quem é o chefe da família na sua casa.      |    |

| 1 | Própria entrevistada      | 2 | Outra pessoa. Quem? \_\_\_\_\_

3.2) Qual o último ano da escola que (ver 3.1. Chefe-da-Família) cursou?

1) Não estudou / Primário incompleto \_\_\_\_\_ 0 pontos

2) Primário completo / Ginásial incompleto \_\_\_\_\_ 5 pontos

3) Ginásial completo / Colegial incompleto \_\_\_\_\_ 10 pontos

4) Colegial completo / Universitário incompleto \_\_\_\_\_ 15 pontos

5) Universitário completo \_\_\_\_\_ 20 pontos

Pontos = \_\_\_\_\_

**3.3) Na sua casa tem:**

	Não tem	Quantas(os) _____ tem?			
		1	2	3	4 ou +
a) TV em cores	0	2	3	4	5
b) Rádio	0	1	2	3	4
c) Banheiro	0	2	3	4	4
d) Automóvel	0	2	4	5	5
e) Empregada mensalista	0	2	4	4	4
f) Aspirador de pó	0	1	1	1	1
g) Máquina de lavar	0	1	1	1	1
h) Videocassete e/ou DVD	0	2	2	2	2
i) Geladeira	0	2	2	2	2
j) Freezer (ap. independente ou parte da geladeira duplex)	0	1	1	1	1

Total de pontos = \_\_\_\_\_

Some o total de pontos da pergunta 3.2. e 3.3.

Total geral de pontos = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ pontos = estrato \_\_\_\_\_

I 1 I A1 (30 A 34 PONTOS)

I 1 I A2 (25 A 29 PONTOS)

I 1 I B1 (21 A 24 PONTOS)

I 1 I B2 (17 A 20 PONTOS)

I 1 I C (11 A 16 PONTOS)

I 1 I D (6 A 10 PONTOS)

I 1 I E (0 A 5 PONTOS)

#### Seção 4- Efeitos Colaterais

1.1) Os escores da intensidade dos efeitos a serem preenchidos na Tabela são:

\*Ausente-0, \*Leves- 1, \*Moderados-2, \* Intensos-3.

Efeitos Colaterais	Data	Data	Data	Data	Data
Mastalgia					
Sangramento					
Alergia de pele					
Cefaléia					
Náuseas/vômitos					
Flatulência					
Diarréia					
Constipação intestinal					
Aumento de peso					
Edema					
Outros					

## Seção 5 - Menopause Rating Scale (MRS)

Qual dos seguintes sintomas e em que medida você diria que sente atualmente?

Sintomas:	Nenhum	Pouco severo	Moderado	Severo	Muito severo	Pré TTO	Pós TTO
	-----0	-----1	-----2	-----3	-----4	//	//
1. Falta de ar, suores, calores.....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
2. Mal-estar do coração (batidas do coração diferentes, saltos nas batidas, batidas mais longas, pressão).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
3. Problemas de sono (dificuldade em conciliar o sono, em dormir toda a noite e desperta-se cedo).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
4. Estado de animo depressivo (sentir-se decaída, triste, a ponto das lágrimas, falta de vontade, trocas de humor).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
5. Irritabilidade (sentir-se nervosa, tensa, agressiva).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
6. Ansiedade (impaciência, pânico).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
7. Esgotamento físico e mental (caída geral em seu desempenho, falta de concentração, falta de memória).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
8. Problemas sexuais (falta do desejo sexual na atividade e satisfação).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
9. Problemas de bexiga (dificuldade de urinar, incontinência, desejo excessivo de urinar).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
10. Ressecamento vaginal (sensação de ressecamento, ardência e problemas durante a relação sexual).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		
11. Problemas musculares e nas articulações (dores reumáticas e nas articulações).....	( )	( )	( )	( )	( )		

## Seção 6 - Instrumento De Qualidade De Vida

Versão em Português do Instrumento de Avaliação de Qualidade de Vida da Organização Mundial de Saúde (WHOQOL – ABREVIADO) 1998.

Este questionário é como a senhora se sente em relação a sua qualidade de vida, saúde e outras áreas de sua vida nas duas últimas semanas. Eu vou ler cada pergunta com suas respostas, senhora deverá escolher a resposta que lhe parecer mais adequada para o seu caso.

### Q1 – Como você avaliaria sua qualidade de vida?

Muito ruim	Ruim	Nem ruim nem boa	Boa	Muito boa
1	2	3	4	5

### Q2 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com a sua saúde?

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

As questões seguintes são sobre **o quanto** você tem sentido algumas coisas nas duas últimas semanas.

### Q5 – O quanto você aproveita a sua vida?

Nada	Muito pouco	Mais ou menos	Bastante	Extremamente
1	2	3	4	5

### Q6 – Em que medida você acha que sua vida tem sentido?

Nada	Muito pouco	Mais ou menos	Bastante	Extremamente
1	2	3	4	5

### Q7 – O quanto você consegue se concentrar?

Nada	Muito pouco	Mais ou menos	Bastante	Extremamente
1	2	3	4	5

### Q8 – Quão seguro você se sente em sua vida diária?

Nada	Muito pouco	Mais ou menos	Bastante	Extremamente
1	2	3	4	5

### Q9 – Quão saudável é o seu ambiente físico (clima, barulho, poluição, atrativos)?

Nada	Muito pouco	Mais ou menos	Bastante	Extremamente
1	2	3	4	5

As questões seguintes perguntam sobre o **quão completamente** você tem sido capaz de fazer certas coisas nestas duas últimas semanas.

### Q10 – Você tem energia o suficiente para o seu dia-a-dia?

Nada	Muito pouco	Médio	Muito	Completamente
1	2	3	4	5

**Q11 – Você é capaz de aceitar sua aparência física?**

Nada	Muito pouco	Médio	Muito	Completamente
1	2	3	4	5

**Q12 – Você tem dinheiro suficiente para satisfazer suas necessidades?**

Nada	Muito pouco	Médio	Muito	Completamente
1	2	3	4	5

**Q13 – Quão disponível estão para você as informações que precisa no seu dia-a-dia?**

Nada	Muito pouco	Médio	Muito	Completamente
1	2	3	4	5

**Q14 – Em que medida você tem oportunidades de atividades de lazer?**

Nada	Muito pouco	Médio	Muito	Completamente
1	2	3	4	5

As questões seguintes perguntam sobre **quão bem ou satisfeito** você se sentiu a respeito de vários aspectos de sua vida nas últimas duas semanas.

**Q15 – Quão bem você é capaz de se locomover?**

Muito ruim	Ruim	Nem ruim nem bom	Bom	Muito bom
1	2	3	4	5

**Q16 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com o seu sono?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q17 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com a sua capacidade de desempenhar as atividades do seu dia-a-dia?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q18 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com sua capacidade para o trabalho?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q19 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está consigo mesmo?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q20 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com suas relações pessoais (amigos, parentes, conhecidos, colegas)?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q21 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com sua vida sexual?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q22 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com o apoio que recebe dos seus amigos?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q23 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com as condições do local onde mora?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q24 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com o seu acesso a serviços de saúde?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

**Q25 – Quão satisfeito(a) você está com o seu meio de transporte?**

Muito insatisfeito	Insatisfeito	Nem satisfeito Nem insatisfeito	Satisfeito	Muito satisfeito
1	2	3	4	5

As questões seguintes referem-se a **com que frequência** você sentiu ou experimentou certas coisas nas últimas duas semanas.

**Q26 – Com que frequência você tem sentimentos negativos, tais como mau humor, desespero, ansiedade e depressão?**

Nunca	Algumas vezes	Freqüentemente	Muito freqüentemente	Sempre
1	2	3	4	5

### 7.3. Anexo 3 - Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido

#### CONSENTIMENTO LIVRE E ESCLARECIDO

- NOME:
- IDADE:
- ENDEREÇO:
- RH:
- RG:

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#### **EFEITOS DOS FITOESTROGÊNIOS CONTIDOS NA ALIMENTAÇÃO COMPARADOS À TERAPIA DE REPOSIÇÃO HORMONAL NA SÍNDROME CLIMATÉRICA**

Eu, \_\_\_\_\_, abaixo assinada, concordo em participar voluntariamente do estudo para avaliar se o alimento ou os remédios com hormônios usados para o tratamento da menopausa interferem nos sintomas da menopausa ou na gordura do sangue.

Estou ciente de que ainda não está provado que o alimento à base de soja melhora os sintomas da menopausa e a gordura do sangue.

Sei que me encontro na menopausa, e que minha participação consiste em usar o remédio que normalmente se usa para o tratamento da menopausa associado a um suplemento de cálcio ou ingerir o alimento à base de soja na quantidade indicada e um comprimido de placebo ou usar um suplemento de cálcio e um comprimido de placebo (para prevenção da osteoporose e não tratamento específico para os sintomas da síndrome climatérica) e atender as orientações que me serão dadas.

Minha participação será por sorteio: poderei ficar no grupo dos remédios, ou no grupo do alimento à base de soja ou no grupo que vai utilizar cálcio. Durante esse tempo deverei comparecer a uma consulta mensal por quatro meses e responderei a

perguntas com o pesquisador e realizarei exame de sangue correspondente a quantidade de duas colheres de sopa de sangue com agulha descartável por pessoa treinada.

Os exames de sangue acontecerão na primeira e na última consulta para avaliar a quantidade de gordura, hormônios e açúcar no sangue; também serão feitos exames de ultra-sonografia via vaginal, que consiste na introdução de um pequeno aparelho na vagina por alguns minutos para avaliação da espessura do endométrio; citologia e pH vaginal, exame realizado com a paciente em posição ginecológica para a introdução de um aparelho para abertura vaginal (espéculo) para retirada com uma espátula de material do colo do útero e colocado em lâmina para análise laboratorial; medida da pressão, de peso e altura. Também fui informada que junto comigo outras mulheres participarão do estudo.

O remédio, ou o alimento ou o suplemento de cálcio deverão ser tomados durante quatro meses. Fui ainda esclarecida que o remédio para menopausa poderá provocar náusea, inchaço nas mamas e sangramento, e, nesse caso serei devidamente orientada.

Participando desta pesquisa poderei receber o tratamento para aliviar os sintomas da menopausa e os resultados da pesquisa podem colaborar para o acompanhamento e tratamento de outras mulheres.

Fui informada que os meus dados pessoais serão mantidos em sigilo pelo pesquisador e receberei uma cópia deste Termo assinado e que, caso não queira participar, isso em nada prejudicará o meu atendimento no hospital.

Durante o estudo receberei auxílio para custear o transporte na forma de vale – transporte e alimentação na forma de vale-alimentação. Caso eu não compareça às consultas marcadas poderei ser chamada por telefone ou telegrama. Qualquer dúvida a respeito da pesquisa poderá ser esclarecida pelo pesquisador responsável pelos

telefones (19) 3521-8936 e (11) 2292-4188.. Podem ser pedidas informações junto ao Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa da UNICAMP e do Hospital Leonor Mendes de Barros pelos telefones (19) 3521-9306 e (11) 2292-4188.

Ciente de tudo isso concordo em participar do estudo.

DATA \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_.

Nome e Assinatura do Sujeito \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lúcio Omar Carmignani – Pesquisador responsável

**Ambulatório da Menopausa F: (19) 3521-9306 e (11) 2292-4188**

#### 7.4. Anexo 4 - Parecer do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa da Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da UNICAMP

 **FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS MÉDICAS**  
**COMITÊ DE ÉTICA EM PESQUISA**  
Caixa Postal 6111  
13083-970 Campinas, SP  
☎ (0\_19) 3788-8936  
☎ fax (0\_19) 3788-8925  
✉ [cep@head.fcm.unicamp.br](mailto:cep@head.fcm.unicamp.br)

CEP, 18/05/04  
(PARECER PROJETO Nº 202/2003)

**PARECER**

**I-IDENTIFICAÇÃO:**

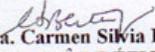
PROJETO: “FITOESTRÓGENO COMO ALIMENTO FUNCIONAL NO CONTROLE DA SÍNDROME CLIMATÉRICA: ENSAIO CLÍNICO RANDOMIZADO”

PESQUISADOR RESPONSÁVEL: Érica de Campos

**II - PARECER DO CEP**

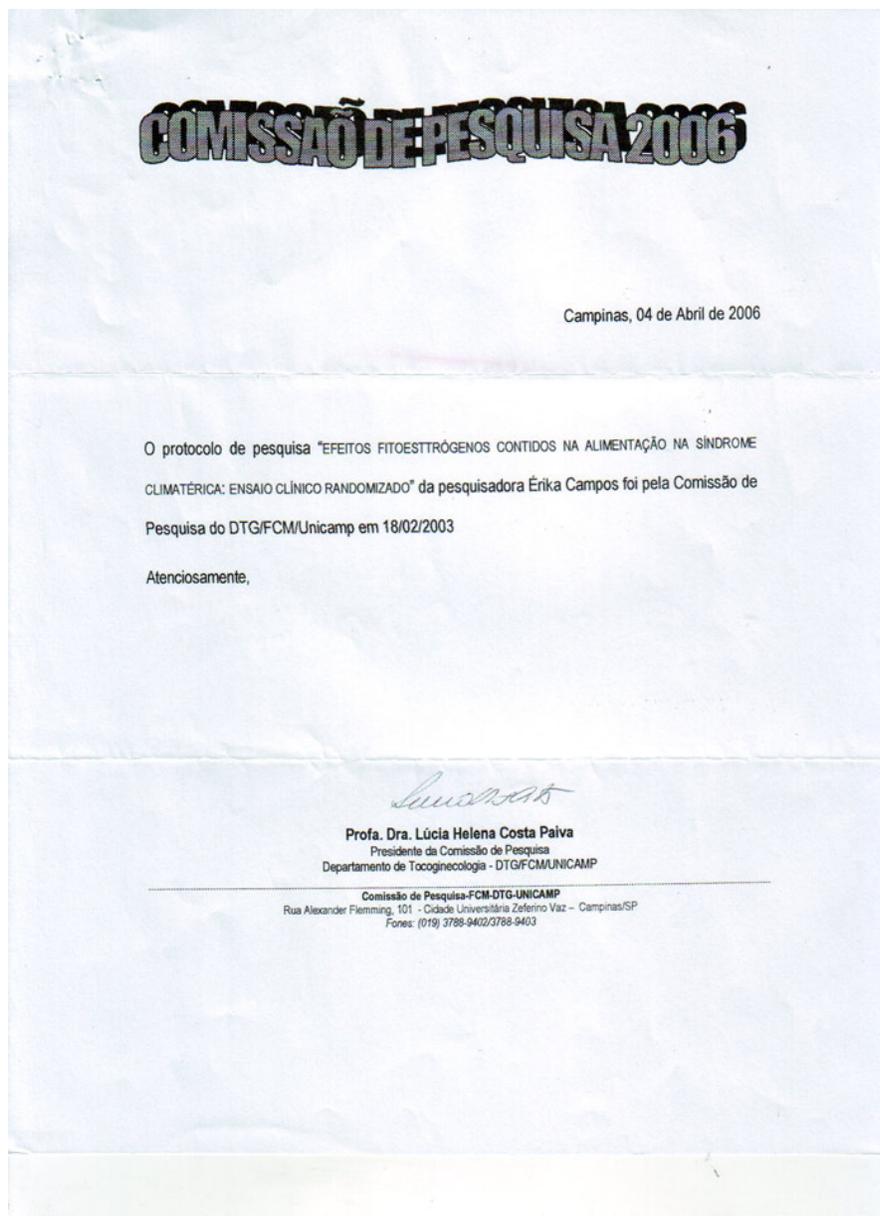
O Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa da Faculdade de Ciências Médicas da UNICAMP tomou ciência e aprovou a Emenda que altera o desenho do estudo para Ensaio Clínico Controlado Randomizado Duplo-Cego, assim como a nova versão do Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido, referente ao protocolo de pesquisa supracitado.

O conteúdo e as conclusões aqui apresentados são de responsabilidade exclusiva do CEP/FCM/UNICAMP e não representam a opinião da Universidade Estadual de Campinas nem a comprometem.

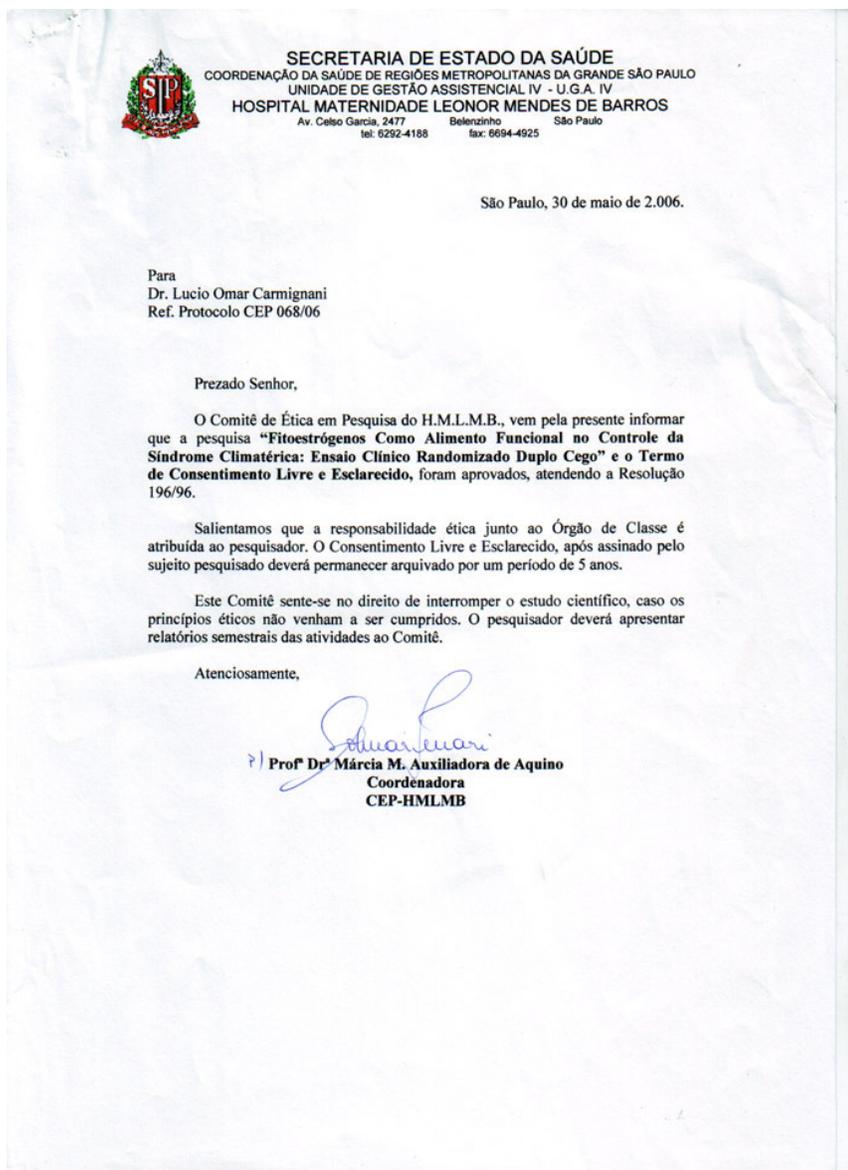
  
**Prof. Dra. Carmen Sílvia Bertuzzo**  
PRESIDENTE DO COMITÊ DE ÉTICA EM PESQUISA  
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Página 1 de 1

**7.5. Anexo 5- Parecer da Comissão de Pesquisa do Departamento de Tocoginecologia da Unicamp**



## 7.6. Anexo 6- Parecer do Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa do Hospital Maternidade Leonor Mendes de Barros



## 7.7. Anexo 7- Envio do artigo 1

### The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on menopausal symptoms: a randomized controlled trial

Página 1 de 1

**De:** Menopause  
**Para:** aopedro@uol.com.br  
**Data:** 21/07/2008 13:04  
**Assunto:** A manuscript number has been assigned to The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on menopausal symptoms: a randomized controlled trial

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**Mensagem**  
Jul 21, 2008

Dear Dr. Pedro,

Your submission entitled "The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on menopausal symptoms: a randomized controlled trial" has been assigned the following manuscript number: MENO-D-08-00192.

You will be able to check on the progress of your paper by logging on to Editorial Manager as an author.

<http://meno.edmgr.com/>

Your username is:  
Your password is:

Thank you for submitting your work to Menopause - The Journal of The North American Menopause Society.

Kind Regards,  
Diane K. Barker  
Managing Editor  
Menopause - The Journal of The North American Menopause Society

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**Anexos**

<http://mail-a.uol.com.br/cgi-bin/webmail> 22/7/2008

## 7.8. Anexo 8- Envio do artigo 2

### The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on main cardiovascular health biomarkers: a randomized controlled trial

Página 1 de 1

**De:** Menopause  
**Para:** aopedro@uol.com.br  
**Data:** 21/07/2008 13:03  
**Assunto:** A manuscript number has been assigned to The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on main cardiovascular health biomarkers: a randomized controlled trial

**Mensagem**

Jul 21, 2008

Dear Dr. Pedro,

Your submission entitled "The effect of soy dietary supplement and estrogen on main cardiovascular health biomarkers: a randomized controlled trial" has been assigned the following manuscript number: MENO-D-08-00191.

You will be able to check on the progress of your paper by logging on to Editorial Manager as an author.

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Kind Regards,

Diane K. Barker  
Managing Editor  
Menopause - The Journal of The North American Menopause Society

**Anexos**

<http://mail-a.uol.com.br/cgi-bin/webmail>

22/7/2008