



Tamoxifen administration and risk of Parkinson's disease

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One article written by Montastruc et al. reported that no association could be detected between tamoxifen therapy and Parkinsonism [1]. On the contrary, Lin et al. reported that tamoxifen therapy was associated with a 3.3-fold increased risk of Parkinson's disease among older women with breast cancer in Taiwan [2]. A cohort study by Latourelle et al. reported that tamoxifen therapy was associated with a 5-fold increased rate of Parkinson's disease after 4 years of tamoxifen therapy [3]. The authors explained the neuroprotective effect of estrogen might be disrupted by tamoxifen therapy [3]. Latourelle et al.'s finding was partially compatible with Lin et al.'s study showing a duration-dependent effect of tamoxifen therapy on the risk of Parkinson's disease [2]. That is, the longer the tamoxifen use, the higher the risk of Parkinson's disease. Although conflicting results exist on the neuroprotective or neurotoxic effects associated with tamoxifen therapy, Latourelle et al. emphasized that the protective effect of tamoxifen therapy against breast cancer recurrence is more important than the risk of Parkinson's disease [3].

Author's contributions Shih-Wei Lai contributed to the conception of the article and initiated the draft of the article.

Compliance with ethical standards

Competing interests The author declares that there are no competing interests.

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