

IHTs at women's midlife: theory and diversity among women and 'experts'

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Women's experience of hormone replacement therapy

- Decision making
- Dominance of technology
- Uncertainty

Decision making

Decisions are multifaceted and complex

Most women integrate decisions about
HRT with their lives in general

Most women will find the right time for
them for their own decision

Decision making

For some women taking HRT has an important role in maintaining their sense of control over their own bodies and their health and health care

Dominance of technology

A test such as bone densitometry can dominate a consultation and decision making

The technological test result becomes a certainty

Uncertainty

Medical evidence such as the risk of breast cancer from HRT comes from population studies

We cannot know which woman will get breast cancer because she took HRT

Uncertainty

Avoid creating a sense of certainty from
what is by its nature uncertain

Negotiate a provisional decision with each
woman. Review it as planned