

# Should Breast Cancer Patients Taking Tamoxifen Consume Soyfoods?

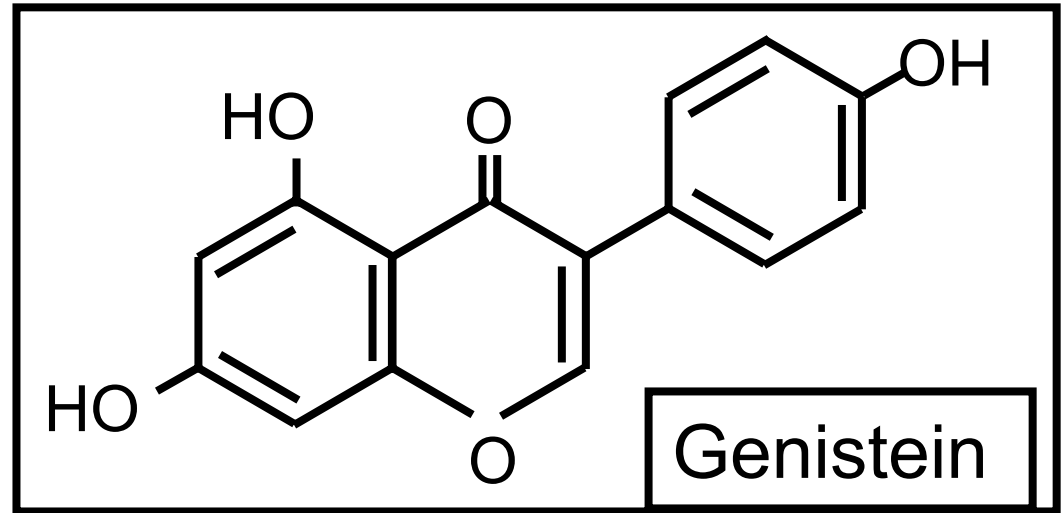


Mark Messina  
markm@olympus.net

Hypothesis:  
Early Soy  
Intake ↓ Adult  
BCa Risk

- Migration data
- Animal data
- Epidemiologic data

# Isoflavone Isomers



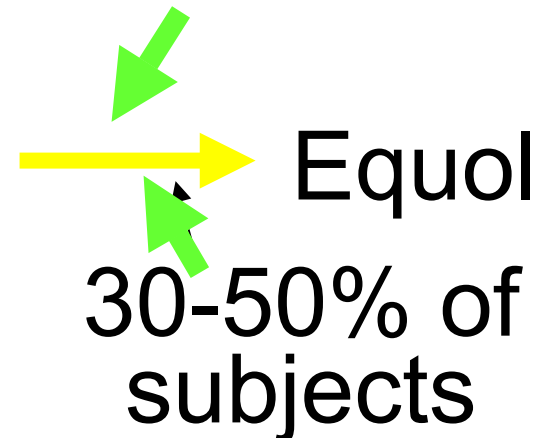
Glycoside  
(+ glucose)

- Genistin
- Daidzin
- Glycitin

Aglycone  
(- glucose)

- Genistein
- Daidzein
- Glycitein

Intestinal  
microflora



# Possible Mechanisms for the Biological Effects of Isoflavones

- Hormonal
  - Estrogen-like
  - Antiestrogenic
- Nonhormonal
  - Signal transduction
  - Antioxidant effects
  - Antiangiogenesis

Selective Estrogen  
Receptor Modulators

# Genistein: Does It Prevent or Promote Breast Cancer?

*Kerrie B. Bouker and Leena Hilakivi-Clarke*

Environ Health Perspect 108: 701, 2000

Department of Oncology, Lombardi Cancer Center, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA

“... studies indicating a cancer-promoting effect of genistein should not be taken lightly.”

*American Institute for Cancer Research 11th Annual  
Research Conference on Diet, Nutrition and Cancer*

**Soy for Breast Cancer Survivors: A Critical Review of the Literature<sup>1</sup>**

Mark J. Messina<sup>2</sup> and Charles L. Loprinzi<sup>\*3</sup>

131: 3095S, 2001

“... If women (with or without breast cancer) enjoy partaking of soy products, then it seems quite

reasonable for them to partake of them.”

**THE JOURNAL  
OF NUTRITION**  
November 2001      Volume 131 No. 11S      ISSN 0022-3166

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE SERIES

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ACADEMIA AND CLINIC

## Advising Patients Who Seek Complementary and Alternative Medical Therapies for Cancer

Wendy A. Weiger, MD, PhD; Michael Smith, MR PharmS, ND; Heather Boon, BScPhm, PhD; Mary Ann Richardson, DrPH; Ted J. Kaptchuk, OMD; and David M. Eisenberg, MD

“... women taking tamoxifen should especially avoid soy supplements.”

Ann Intern Med 137: 889, 2002

"These results raise concern about consuming dietary isoflavone supplements in conjunction with tamoxifen in postmenopausal women who have estrogen dependent breast cancer ..."

William Helferich, PhD  
University of Illinois





# Relative Binding Affinities of Selected Compounds

Compound	RBA	
	ER $\alpha$	ER $\beta$
17 $\beta$ -estradiol	100	100
Tamoxifen	4	3
4-OH-tamoxifen	257	237
Genistein	4	87
Daidzein	0.1	0.5

RBA by solid-phase (Scintistrip) competition, =the ratio of concentrations of 17 $\beta$ -E2 & competitor required to reduce the specific radioligand binding by 50% with the RBA for 17 $\beta$ -E2 arbitrarily set at 100. Endocrinol 139: 4252, 1998

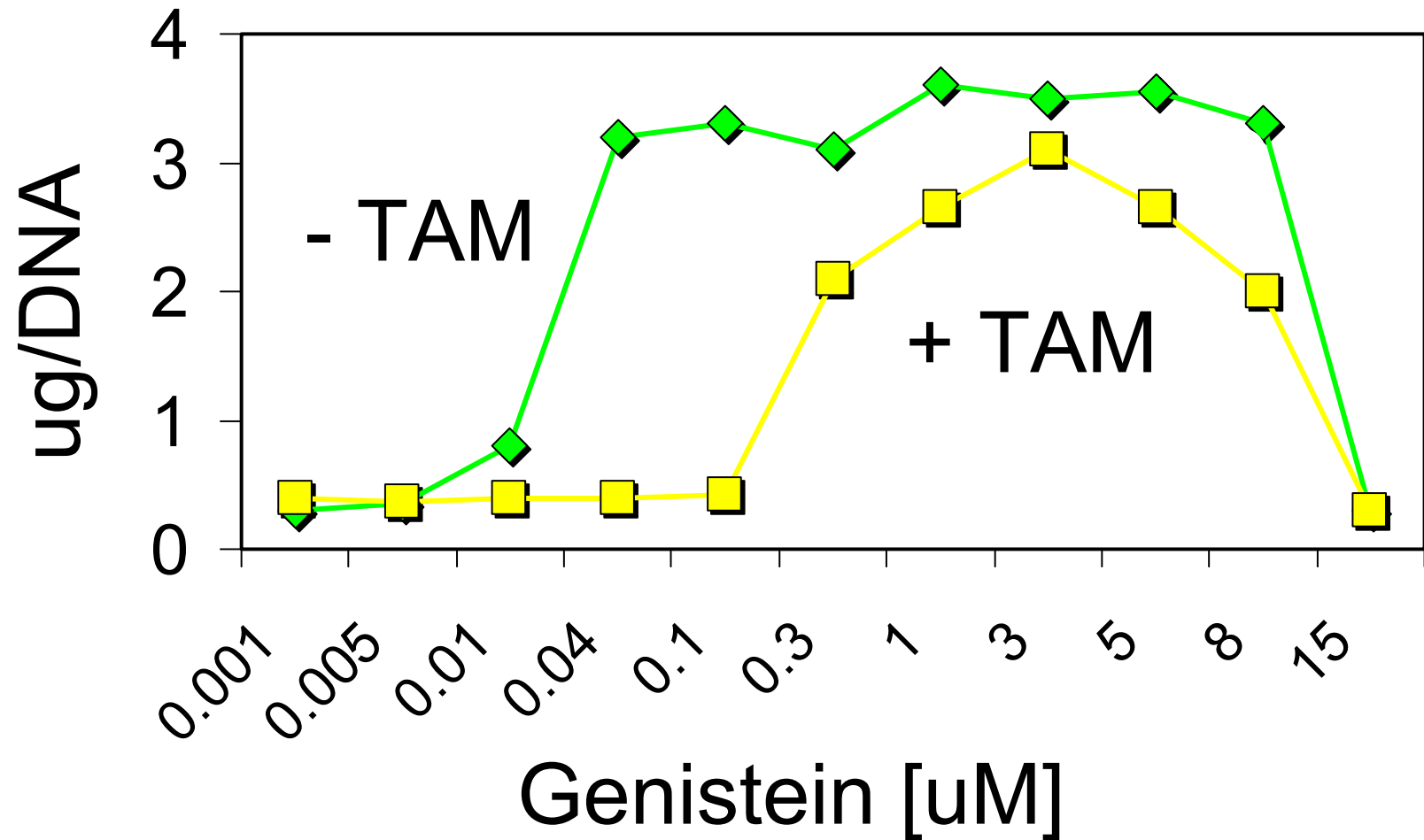
# In Vitro Effects of Tamoxifen (TAM) on Isoflavones (IFs)

- TAM & IFs compete for binding to estrogen receptors
- TAM inhibits the “estrogenic” effects of low [IFs] on BCa cells
- No (-) effects of TAM on the growth inhibitory effects of high [genistein]
- TAM sensitized T47D (ER+) cells to the inhibitory effects of genistein

# Isoflavone Pharmacokinetics

- Absorption,  $\approx$  30- 50%
- Half-life, 6-9 hours
- Peak serum levels, 6 hours
- Free living Japanese adults fasting levels, 200-500 nM
- Clinical studies, 1- 5  $\mu$ M
- Mostly conjugates in serum

# Effect of Genistein on T47D (ER+) BCa Cells +/- Tamoxifen

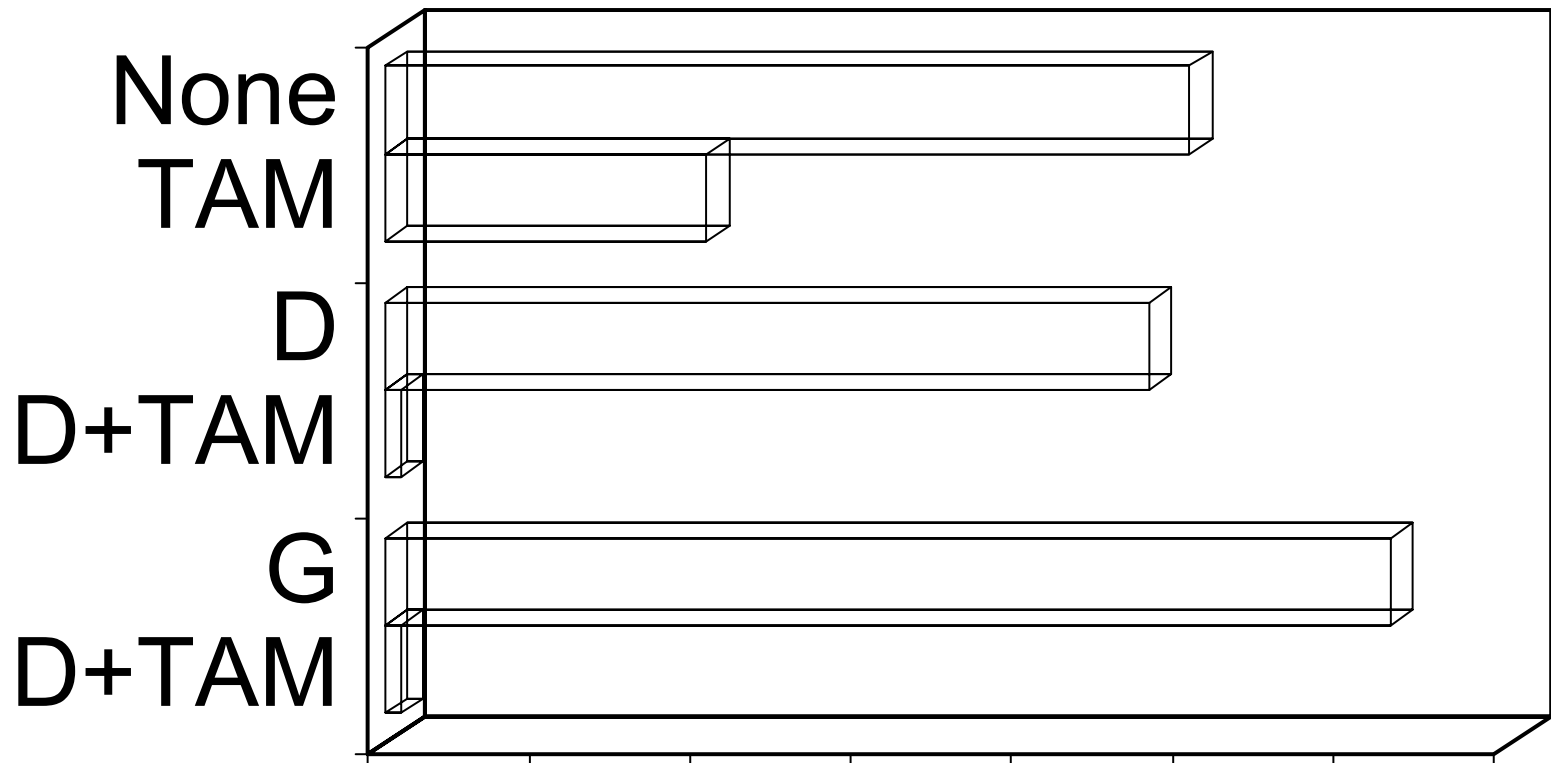


# In Vitro Effects in T47-D (ER+) Breast Cancer Cells in a Low Estrogen Environment

	% Proliferation
Control	100.0
Tamoxifen [1 uM]	92.8*
Genistein [1 uM]	100.0
TAM + GEN	96.7

\* P < 0.05 vs control; Am Surgeon 68: 575, 2002

# Effects of TAMoxifen, Daidzein, & Genistein Alone & in Combination on MCF-7 Cell Growth



In Vitro Cell Dev Biol 37: 275,  
2001 (medium includes 1  $\mu$ M  
environmental estrogens)

Relative cell number (%)

# Antiproliferative Action of Tamoxifen & Genistein in MDA-MB-435 (ER-) BCa Cells

Tamoxifen [uM]	Genistein [uM]	% of control
5	0	91
0	5	82
5	5	44 <sup>*</sup>

Statistically significant interaction; Anticancer Res 19: 1657, 1999

# In Vitro Effects of Genistein and Tamoxifen on 6 Different Types of Breast Cells

- Genistein dose-dependently (4-40  $\mu\text{M}$ ) inhibits the growth of ER+ dysplastic & ER+/- malignant cells
- Adding tamoxifen (1-10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) leads to a synergistic inhibition of dysplastic cells and an additive inhibitory effect on malignant cells



# Effects of TAM & GEN on MCF-7 Cell Growth in OVX Athymic Mice

Group	Tumor (mm <sup>2</sup> )
Control	5.9
Estrogen (E2)	116.5
E2 + TAM	14.4
E2 + TAM + GEN	75.1

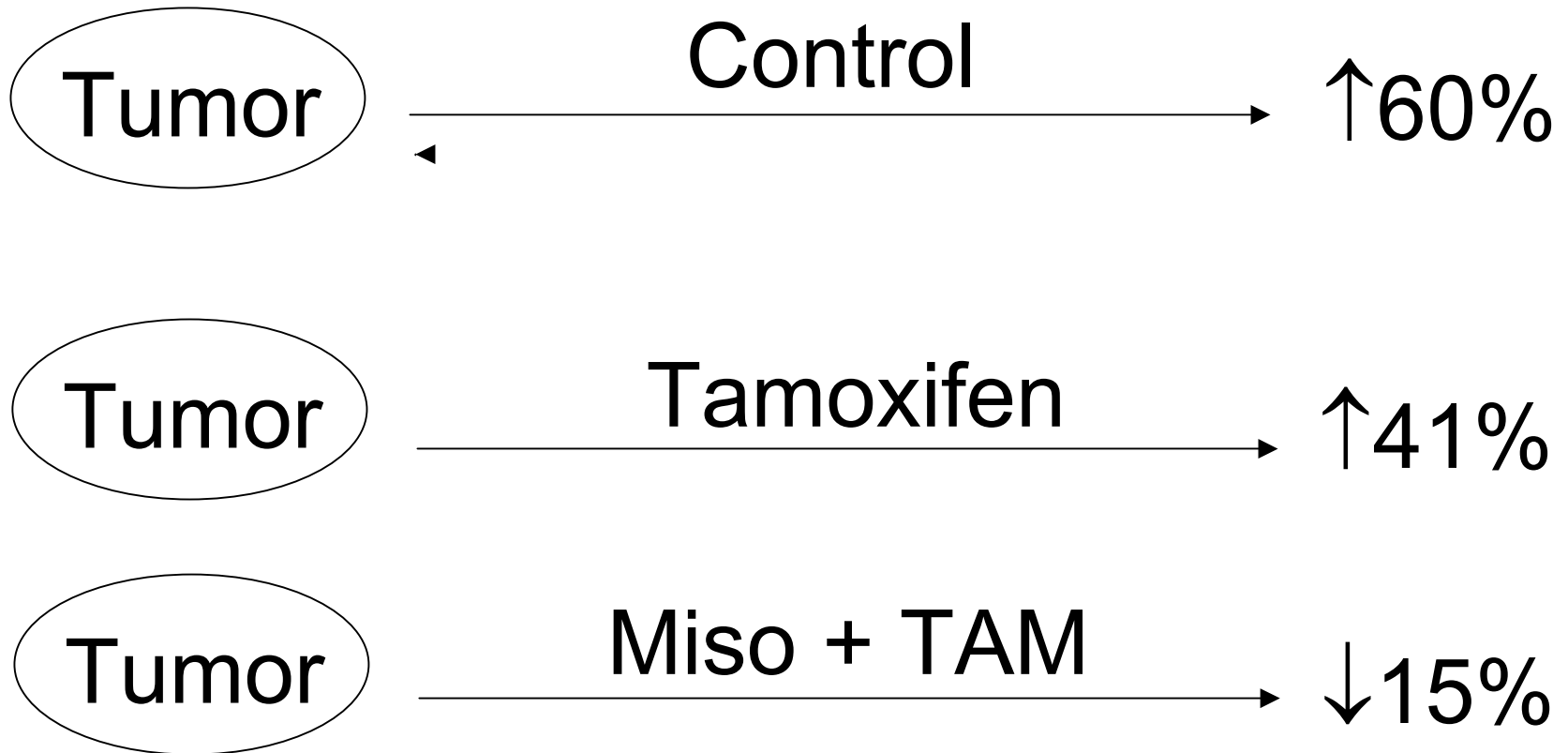
# Effects on DMBA-Induced Rat Mammary Cancer

Group	Tumors/rat
Control	7.6
Tamoxifen	5.9 (29% ↓)
Soy	5.0 (37% ↓)
Soy + TAM	3.0 (62% ↓)*

# Effects of Miso & Tamoxifen on MNU Rat Mammary Cancer

Group	Incidence (%)	Tumors per rat
Control	91	4.5*
Miso (10%)	77	2.4*
Tamoxifen	68	1.4*
Miso+TAM	10	0.2*

# Mammary Tumor Size 6 Weeks after Start of Treatment



American Society of Clinical  
Oncology Breast Cancer Technology  
Assessment Working Group

“Use of tamoxifen in  
combination with hormone  
replacement therapy is not  
recommended outside  
of a clinical trial.”

J Clinical Oncology 20: 3328, 2002

# Combined Effects of Tamoxifen and HRT on Breast Cancer Risk

- IBIS-1, N=7410 (OR = 0.67)
  - 1484 combined users - NI
- Royal Marsden N=2494 (OR = 0.83)
  - 523 combined users - NI
- Italian Study N=5408 (OR = 0.76)
  - ↓ risk only in combined users

# Insights from the HRT Data

Observations	EPT	ET
Epi data: BCa risk	↑↑	↑
Cell proliferation	↑↑	↑
Breast tissue density	↑↑	↑
WHI	↑	---
Soy has no progestin activity		

# Conclusions & Recommendations

- Theoretical basis for avoiding soy while on tamoxifen
- In vitro and animal data: both harmful & beneficial interactions
- Overall, data point toward beneficial effects
- Human studies need to be undertaken immediately