San Antonio — Anastrozole was the only third-generation aromatase inhibitor that didn’t exert adverse effects upon serum lipid profiles in the Letrozole, Exemestane, and Anastrozole Pharmacodynamics trial. Dr. Eugene McCloskey reported at a breast cancer symposium sponsored by the Cancer Therapy and Research Center.

The LEAP trial had 90 healthy postmenopausal women taking randomly assigned aromatase inhibitors for 24 weeks, with 12 weeks’ follow-up.

In light of the LEAP findings, it’s appropriate to carry out large randomized trials with clinical cardiovascular end points—such as acute MI and the need for coronary revascularization—in order to better define the risk profiles of the various aromatase inhibitors, Dr. McCloskey said.

In a separate presentation, Dr. Shalini Singh presented reassuring 1-year lipid data on 242 healthy postmenopausal women randomized to anastrozole or placebo in the second International Breast Cancer Prevention Study (IBIS-II), a multicenter chemoprevention trial involving 6,000 healthy postmenopausal women at increased risk for breast cancer.

A year of anastrozole resulted in a marginally significant decrease in LDL cholesterol compared with placebo, and no significant differences in total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, or triglycerides, according to Dr. Singh of the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine at Queen Mary, University of London, which is the sponsor of IBIS-II.