American and Canadian fertility experts have expressed surprise and disappointment about new warnings concerning the aromatase inhibitor letrozole and its off-label use in fertility treatment. "This is a knee-jerk reaction without a proper review of the data," said Dr. Oktay at a recent conjoint annual meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, said company spokesperson Kim Fox. Dr. Oktay believes that the short half-life of letrozole makes it biologically implausible that the drug could cause anomalies. He also noted that the label advises physicians and patients to "periodically assess the need for appropriate contraception." "The study reported by Dr. Biljan et al. has done more harm than good as the conclusions are not supported by the idealized image of the thin female— and that this increase in body dissatisfaction may promote depression.

However, additional research has shown that larger female body types are more desirable and acceptable among African Americans than they are among whites, wrote Dr. Floyd, of City College, New York, and her colleagues.

The study included girls in grades 4 through 9, with an average age of 12 years. Approximately 50% of the girls were African American.

Overall, white girls reported significantly more body dissatisfaction than African American girls. Although pubertal status did not directly predict depression in either group, pubertal status significantly predicted body dissatisfaction among white girls. A linear regression analysis, which in turn predicted depressive symptoms.

Pubertal changes were more likely to trigger body dissatisfaction in white girls than in African American girls in a study of 331 girls, aged 11-19 years, who were followed longitudinally. The researchers found that larger female body types are more desirable and acceptable among African Americans than they are among whites, wrote Dr. Floyd, of City College, New York, and her colleagues.

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The researchers closely replicated the findings of the Iowa Women’s Health Study, which reported a 47% lower risk of ovarian cancer in women who drank tea weekly. "To our knowledge, the Iowa Women’s Health Study is the only other prospective study that has examined the relationship between tea consumption and ovarian cancer risk," Dr. Larson and Dr. Wolk said. Polyphenols that are abundant in both green and black teas “have been extensively studied as cancer chemopreventive agents,” they added.

Catechins, theaflavins, thearubigins, and flavonoids have been shown to inhibit carcinogenesis in laboratory and animal studies. It is possible that these polyphenols protect against cancer by their antioxidant effects. Some researchers have posited that they may also inhibit cell growth, induce apoptosis, or inhibit tumor angiogenesis, the investigators noted.

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