Category 17, Items 19 and 20

19. Which of the following statements about the use of tamoxifen in breast cancer prevention is NOT true?

(A) Potential side effects include nausea, hot flashes, and an increased risk of thromboembolic events
(B) The proven efficacy of tamoxifen mandates its use in all patients with lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS)
(C) Annual pelvic examination with endometrial biopsy should be done
(D) In patients who have had a previous resection for early stage breast cancer there is a 40% reduction in contralateral breast cancer
(E) A decrease in total serum cholesterol and stabilization of bone loss may be anticipated

20. A 72-year-old woman has a 5-cm breast mass and severe back pain. The bone scan shown [right] is obtained. Radiation therapy to the lumbar spine is recommended.

This patient should also be counseled that

(A) immediate surgical right femoral fixation is indicated
(B) the median survival is 9 to 12 months
(C) combination chemotherapy will provide optimal initial treatment
(D) initiation of tamoxifen may result in an increase in pain
(E) bracing is indicated to prevent extradural compression by tumor

For item 19 choose 1 of the 5 answers given and for item 20 choose the completion that is best of the 5 given.

For the critique of items 19 and 20, see page 24.

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