

S14. IBIS-I and ATAC Trials. Update and Implications for IBIS-II

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The current status of the tamoxifen prevention trials will be reviewed with special reference to IBIS I. That study has now closed with 7154 women randomised and there were 164 breast cancers as of October 2001. Announcement of the results is planned when 200 breast cancers have been recorded which is likely to be mid-2002. The ATAC trial has produced strong support for examining aromatase inhibitors in prevention – a 27% reduced recurrence rate in ER positive women and a 58% reduction in contralateral tumours compared to tamoxifen. Coupled with the 40-50% reduction of con-

tralateral tumours achieved by tamoxifen, this suggests that anastrozole may be able to achieve a 70-80% reduction of new tumours in the prevention setting. The side effect profile looks more favourable as well, with substantially fewer endometrial cancers, thromboembolic events, strokes, hot flushes and vaginal discharge. However, fracture rates are higher and methods for managing this will be a key part of the new prevention trial in which anastrozole will be compared to tamoxifen or placebo in 10,000 high risk women and 4000 with DCIS.