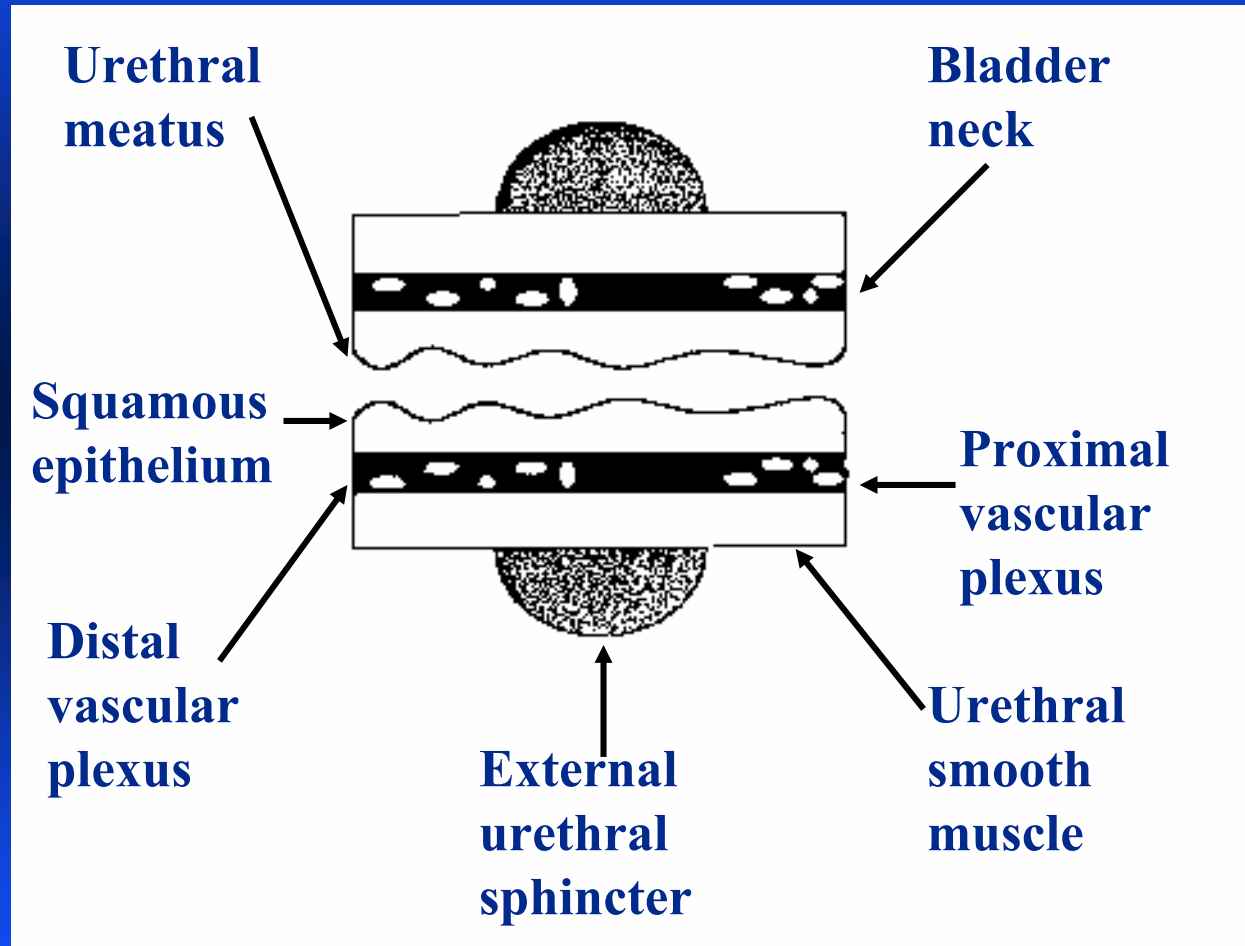


# Place de l'oestrogénothérapie chez la femme âgée

Dr. F. Luzuy



# Tissue layers of the urethra



# Periurethral collagen, stress urinary incontinence (SUI) and estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) among postmenopausal women

| <i>Collagen Parameter</i>                  | <i>Postmenopausal SUI, on ERT<br/>compared to no ERT</i> | <i>Postmenopausal continent,<br/>on ERT compared to no ERT</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cross-linking</b>                       | ↓↓                                                       | ↓                                                              |
| <b>Concentration</b>                       | ↓                                                        | ↓                                                              |
| <b>Fibril diameter</b>                     | unchanged                                                | unchanged                                                      |
| <b>mRNA for collagen I, III</b>            | I(I), T(III)                                             | unchanged                                                      |
| <b>Proteoglycan (PG)<br/>concentration</b> | ↓                                                        | unchanged                                                      |
| <b>PG: collagen ratio</b>                  | unchanged                                                | ↑                                                              |

Effect of menopause and estrogen replacement on periurethral collagen biochemistry stress urinary incontinence versus continent women (after Falconer et al)



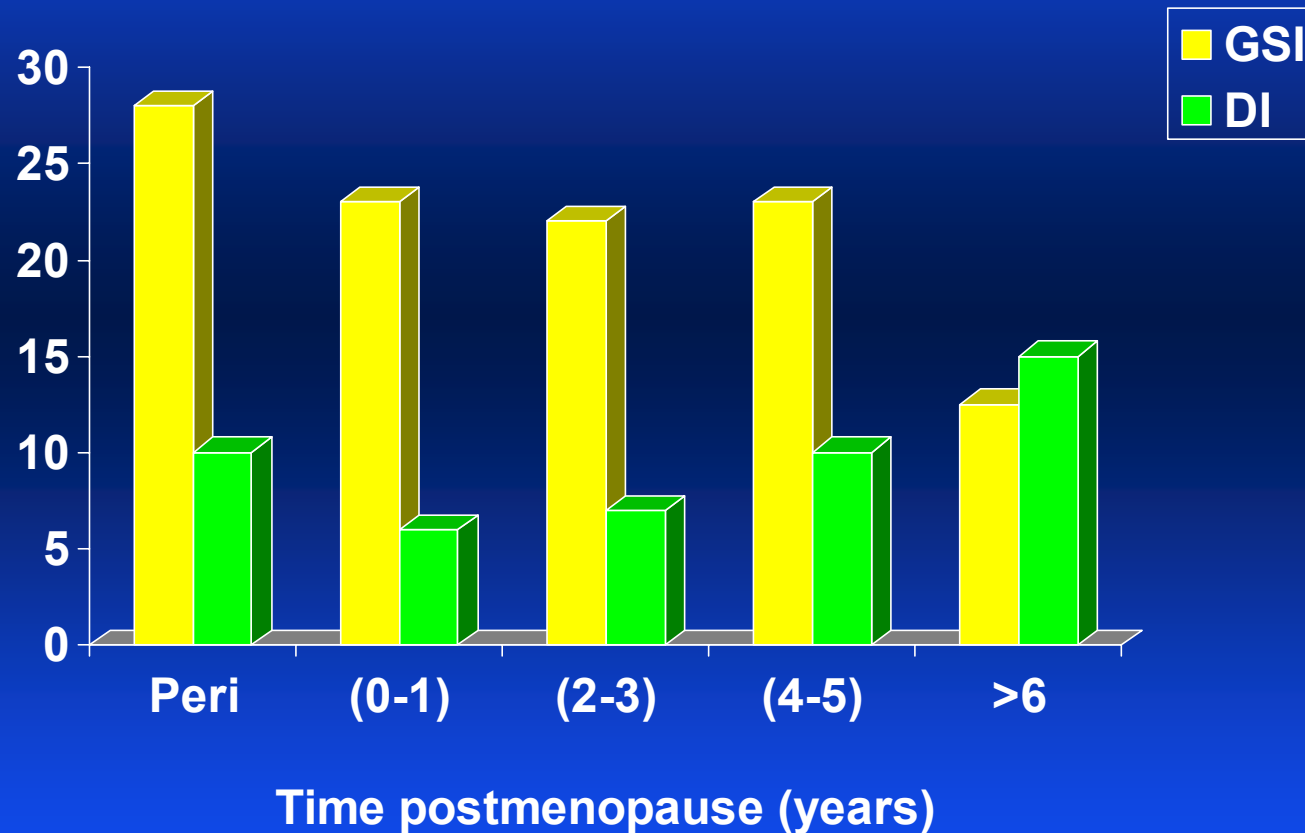
# Estrogen effects on stress incontinence

| <i>Parameter</i>                                       | <i>Effect of estrogen</i>        | <i>Effect on continence</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pressure transmission ratio                            | possibly increases proximally    | probably minimal            |
| Contraction of external urethral sphincter/levator ani | no evidence of direct effect     | none                        |
| Urethral tone                                          | possibly increases baseline tone | unclear                     |

# Impact of estrogen on resting continence

| <i>Tissue</i>                | <i>Effect of estrogen</i>                                                          | <i>Effect on continence</i>                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Urethral mucosa              | softens, increases pliability                                                      | aids hermetic seal, aids continence                 |
| Submucosal vascular plexuses | increases fullness and tortuosity of proximal plexus<br>no effect on distal plexus | increased closing pressure, aids resting continence |
| Periurethral collagen        | increases elasticity, collagen synthesis                                           | effect on continence unclear                        |
| Striated muscle              | no effect                                                                          | no direct effect                                    |
| Urethral smooth muscle       | may increase tone synergistically with $\alpha$ -agonist                           | effect unclear when used alone                      |
| Detrusor smooth muscle       | probably decreased irritability                                                    | possible decrease in urge incontinence              |

# Age distribution of genuine stress incontinence and detrusor instability; after Versi and co-workers



## Estrogen therapy in stress incontinence : uncontrolled trials

| <i>Ref.</i>  | <i>Subjects</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i>     | <i>Intervention</i>                                   | <i>Result</i>                                                                    | <i>Notes</i>                                                            |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hilton (83)  | 11 PM, GSI      | cohort      | MUCP PTR                    | 2 g vaginal conjugated E <sub>2</sub> daily x 4 weeks | significant improvement in MUCP and PTR, non significant improvement in symptoms |                                                                         |
| Bhatia (89)  | 11 PM, GSI      | cohort      | UPP                         | 2 g vaginal conjugated E <sub>2</sub> daily x 6 weeks | 6/11 cured or improved. Improved UPP in cured patients                           | no UPP changes in patients who were not cured                           |
| Bergman (90) | 11 PM, GSI      | cohort      | UPP                         | vaginal conjugated E <sub>2</sub> x 6 weeks           | 5/10 improved urethral cytology only among improved GSI                          | Proposes urethral mucosal factor to explain results                     |
| Sartori (95) | 30 PM, GSI      | cohort      | Leakage at maximum capacity | Premarin 0.625/ Provera 2.5 oral qd x 3 months        | 70 % had no leaking at maximum bladder capacity                                  | No discussion of their GSI criteria. Significant subjective improvement |

PM, postmenopausal; GSI, genuine stress incontinence; UPP, urethral pressure profile., MUCP, maximum urethral closure pressure; PTR, pressure transmission ratio



## Estrogen and stress incontinence; randomized placebo-controlled trials

| <i>Ref.</i>  | <i>Subjects</i>                         | <i>Study Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i> | <i>Intervention</i>                                | <i>Result</i>                                                                                    |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Judge (69)   | 20 PM hospital-based geriatric patients | R                 | Incontinence            | Quinestrol po qd x 5 weeks                         | significant reduction in frequency of incontinence at 5 <sup>th</sup> week placebo had no effect |
| Walter (81)  | 29 PM with UI                           | R                 | SI, UPP                 | Cyclic po E <sub>2</sub> /E <sub>3</sub> x 20 days | no improvement in SI or UPP                                                                      |
| Samside (85) | 34 PM with UI                           | R                 | SI                      | po estriol x 3 months                              | no significant change in SI                                                                      |

PM, postmenopausal; SI, stress incontinence; UI, urinary incontinence; F, frequency; GSI, genuine stress incontinence; UPP, urethral pressure profile; R, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled



## Estrogen and stress incontinence; randomized placebo-controlled trials

| <i>Ref.</i> | <i>Subjects</i>            | <i>Study Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i>          | <i>Intervention</i>                       | <i>Result</i>                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wilson (87) | 36 PM with UI              | R                 | SI, F, pad change frequency      | po estrone x 3 months                     | no significant change in no of pad changes, UPP, or frequency                                                                                          |
| Walter (90) | 12 PM with UI              | R                 | Urine leakage                    | po estriol 4 mg qd plus $\alpha$ -agonist | significant objective decrease in amount of urine loss                                                                                                 |
| Fantl (96)  | 83 PM, GSI hypoestrogenism | R                 | GSI, hypoestrogenism, subjective | po estrogen x 3 months                    | no improvement in GSI vs, placebo<br>significant improvement in vaginal and urethral estrogenization<br>significant improvement in subjective symptoms |

PM, postmenopausal; SI, stress incontinence; UI, urinary incontinence; F, frequency; GSI, genuine stress incontinence; UPP, urethral pressure profile; R, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled



## Estrogen plus $\alpha$ -agonist therapy in treating urinary incontinence

| <i>Ref.</i>   | <i>Subjects</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i> | <i>Intervention</i>                                  | <i>Result</i>                                                                                                               |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beisland (81) | 13 PM UI, USI   | R           | Symptoms, UPP           | Oral E <sub>2</sub> versus oral E <sub>2</sub> & PPA | 8/13 became continent with combination therapy vs E <sub>2</sub> alone. Significantly improved UPP with combination therapy |
| Beisland (84) | 20 PM UI, USI   | R, X        | UPP                     | PPA 50 mg po bid vaginal estriol 1 mg qd             | 8 cured, 9 improved with combination therapy                                                                                |
| Kinn (88)     | 36 PM GSI       | R           | UPP, leakage            | Oral E <sub>2</sub> versus oral E <sub>2</sub> & PPA | Significant objective improvement with combination therapy vs E <sub>2</sub> alone                                          |

postmenopausal; UI, urinary incontinence; GSI, genuine stress incontinence; R, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled; X, cross-over; UPP, urethral pressure profile; USI, urethral sphincter insufficiency (low urethral closure pressure); PPA, phenylpropanolamine ( $\alpha$ -adrenergic agonist; E<sub>2</sub>, estradiol; E<sub>3</sub>, estriol



## Estrogen plus $\alpha$ -agonist therapy in treating urinary incontinence

| <i>Ref.</i>   | <i>Subjects</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i>              | <i>Intervention</i>                                      | <i>Result</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hilton (90)   | 60 PM GSI       | R           | GSI, frequency, nocturia, subjective | Oral E <sub>2</sub> versus oral E <sub>2</sub> & PPA     | Significant objective improvement with combination therapy vs E <sub>2</sub> alone<br>Significant, nocturia improved more with combined vs single therapy                                                                                                                                          |
| Walter (90)   | 12 PM with GSI  | R           | Urine leakage                        | po estriol 4 mg qd plus $\alpha$ -agonist                | Significant objective decrease in amount of urine loss                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Ahlstrom (90) | 29 PM, GSI      | R           | UPP, symptoms                        | Oral E <sub>3</sub> placebo vs oral E <sub>3</sub> & PPA | Significant subjective improvement in E <sub>3</sub> + PPA vs E <sub>3</sub> + placebo<br>Significant objective improvement in UPP variables in E <sub>3</sub> + PPA group vs E <sub>3</sub> + placebo<br>Significant decrease in leakage episodes, decrease in urine loss on standard stress test |

postmenopausal; UI, urinary incontinence; GSI, genuine stress incontinence; R, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled; X, cross-over; UPP, urethral pressure profile; USI, urethral sphincter insufficiency (low urethral closure pressure); PPA, phenylpropanolamine ( $\alpha$ -adrenergic agonist; E<sub>2</sub>, estradiol; E<sub>3</sub>, estriol



# Estrogen therapy for urinary frequency, and urge incontinence

| <i>Ref.</i>  | <i>Subjects</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i> | <i>Intervention</i>           | <i>Result</i>                                                                                                             |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wlater (81)  | 21 PM, F, UI    | R           | UI, F                   | Estrogen vs placebo x 6 weeks | 7/11 study subjects improved<br>1/10 controls improved (p < 0.05)                                                         |
| Sanside (85) | 34 PM with UI   | R           | Urge, mixed             | po estriol x 3 months         | Significant improvement in urge symptoms and mixed incontinence symptoms                                                  |
| Carrozo (93) | 64 PM           | R           | UI, F                   | Oral estriol                  | No significant difference between estriol and placebo<br>Both groups showed significant improvement over pre-intervention |
| Eriksen (92) | 154 PM          | R           | UI, F, SI, dysuria      | Vaginal estradiol tablets     | Significant improvement in study group over placebo                                                                       |

PM, postmenopausal., R, randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled; UI, urge incontinence; SI, stress incontinence; F, frequency



# Controlled trials of estrogen therapy, for recurrent urinary tract infections

| <i>Ref</i>      | <i>Subjects</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Outcome variable</i> | <i>Intervention</i>                   | <i>Result</i>                                                                                |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kjaergaard (90) | 23 PM, R-UTI    | R           | Frequency of UTI        | Vaginal estriol x 5 months            | No significant improvement in study vs placebo. Significant improvement in vaginal cytology  |
| Kirkengen (92)  | 40 PM, R-UTI    | R           | Frequency of UTI        | oral estriol x 12 weeks               | Significant reduction in UTI vs placebo                                                      |
| Raz (93)        | 93 PM, R-UTI    | R           | Frequency of UTI        | vaginal estriol vs placebo x 8 months | Reduction in UTI in study group vs placebo<br>Improvement in vaginal cytology in study group |
| Cardoso (98)    | 72 PM, R-UTI    | R           | Frequency of UTI        | vaginal estriol vs placebo x 3 months | Improvement in study and placebo groups; no significant                                      |

PM, postmenopausal., R-UTI; recurrent urinary tract infection; R; randomized, double-blind placebo controlled trial



# **Trials of estrogen effects on urethral pressure variables**

| <i>Year</i> |    |                                                                            |
|-------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1977        | 41 | Improved resting UPP                                                       |
| 1983        | 10 | Improved PTR                                                               |
| 1984        | 20 | Improved resting UPP                                                       |
| 1988        | 64 | No changes in UPP                                                          |
| 1989        | 6  | Enhanced PTR to proximal mid-urethra                                       |
| 1990        | 12 | No change in UPP                                                           |
| 1991        | 12 | No change in UPP after GnRH-induced menopause                              |
| 1992        | 80 | Improved pressure to proximal urethra.<br>No change in other UPP variables |

UPP, urethral pressure profile; GnRH, gonadotropin releasing hormone



# Summary of estrogen effects in the postmenopausal lower urinary tract

| <i>Parameter</i>                                  | <i>Effect of estrogen</i>                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Symptoms of urinary incontinence                  | Improved                                                                                                          |
| Genuine stress incontinence (objective diagnosis) | Not improved with estrogen alone<br>Objective improvement with combination estrogen and $\alpha$ -agonist therapy |
| Urge incontinence                                 | Probably improved                                                                                                 |
| Recurrent urinary tract infections                | Improved                                                                                                          |
| Urethral pressure profile                         | Inconclusive                                                                                                      |
| Nocturia                                          | Improved                                                                                                          |
| Frequency                                         | Probably improved                                                                                                 |
| Voiding difficulty                                | Probably improved                                                                                                 |