

Drop in breast cancer tied to hormones

by UPI

WASHINGTON - A U.S. report links the first decline in breast cancer cases in 25 years to the sharp drop in hormone use by menopausal women.

An analysis published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* says about 16,000 fewer cases of breast cancer are being diagnosed each year because of the drop in hormone use after 2002, *The Washington Post* reported Wednesday.

There were nearly 10 percent fewer breast cancer cases diagnosed in 2003 and 2004 than expected, *The New York Times* said. It was the first substantial drop in breast cancer incidence in more than a quarter-century.

"An awful lot of breast cancer was caused by doctors' prescriptions," Larry Norton of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York told the Post.

Some researchers, however, are questioning the findings. "Even if there was a cause-and-effect, you wouldn't expect it to show up for five or 10 years," Hugh S. Taylor of Yale University told the Post.

Drop in breast cancer tied to hormones by UPI