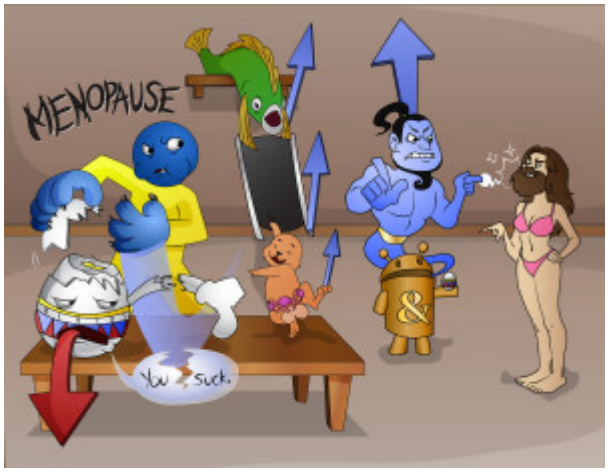
Menopause Lab Findings

There are numerous hormonal changes which occur in menopause. First, the natural, age-related decrease in estrogen decreases negative feedback on other hormones. Thus, LH, FSH and GnRH increase.



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Decreased Estrogen
Down-arrow Easter-egg
Menopause occurs due to cessation of estrogen (and progesterone) production from the ovaries. Decreased estrogen levels influence other levels of hormones as well.

Lack of Negative Feedback
Slashing Negative Feedback
As estrogen levels decline, negative feedback on FSH and LH secretion is removed. This lack of negative feedback allows FSH and LH levels to increase.

Increased FSH
Up-arrow Fish
With a lack of negative feedback from estrogen, FSH levels become elevated.

Increased LH
Up-arrow Luge
With a lack of negative feedback from estrogen, LH levels become elevated.

Increased GnRH
Up-arrow Gonad-gopher
GnRH production and secretion is increased in menopause, further inducing secretion of FSH and LH.

Small Amount of Estrogen From Androgen Conversion
Small Easter-egg from &-droid-genie
After menopause, estrogen continues to be produced through androgen conversion in other tissues, notably adipose tissue and ovaries, but also in bone, blood vessels and even in the brain.

Increased Androgens = Hirsutism
Up-arrow &-droid-genie causing Bearded-woman
Androgen levels do not change in menopause, but the decrease in estrogen leads to decreased steroid-hormone-binding globulin. Due to increased free testosterone (some of which is converted to estrogen), hirsutism can occur in postmenopausal women.

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