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## Hot topics in osteoporosis

# Is drug holiday a useful trick?

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# Disclosure

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Takeda, Amylin

# Outline

- ▣ Effects of treatment on fracture risk
- ▣ The residual effect of bisphosphonates
- ▣ Long-term adverse effects of bisphosphonate use
- ▣ Alternatives to “drug holiday”

## Vertebral Fracture reduction in Pivot Trials

| study              | Increase in BMD | Reduction in vertebral Fx (RRR) | Baseline Vertebral Fx | ARR / NNT (3yr) | Drug               |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| FIT II             | 8.3%            | 44%                             | 0%                    | 1.7% / 59       | alendronate        |
| FIT I              | 7.9%            | 47%                             | 100%                  | 7% / 15         | alendronate        |
| VERT <sub>MN</sub> | 7.1%            | 39%                             | 100%                  | 10% / 10        | risedronate        |
| VERT <sub>NA</sub> | 5.4%            | 31%                             | 100%                  | 5% / 20         | risedronate        |
| MORE               | 2.6%            | 35%                             | 37%                   | 6.5% / 16       | raloxifen          |
| BONE               | 6.0%            | 52%                             | 100%                  | 4.9% / 21       | ibandronate        |
| FPT                | 14%             | 65%                             | 100%                  | 9% / 12         | teriparatide       |
| HORIZON            | 7.0%            | 70%                             | 60%                   | 7.6% / 14       | Zoledronic acid    |
| SOTI               | 14%             | 41%                             | 100%                  | 11% / 9         | Strontium Ranelate |
| FREEDOM            | 10%             | 68%                             | 23%                   | 4.8 / 21        | Denosumab          |

# Global Fracture Risk Reduction

|            | Vertebral Fracture | Non-vertebral Fracture | Hip Fracture |
|------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| ZOL        | +                  | +                      | +            |
| RIS        | +                  | +                      | +            |
| ALN        | +                  | +                      | +            |
| Strontium  | +                  | +                      | + (*)        |
| Estrogen   | +                  | +                      | +            |
| TPD        | +                  | +                      | -            |
| Calcitriol | +                  | -                      | -            |
| IBN        | +                  | + (*)                  | + (*)        |
| RLX        | +                  | -                      | -            |
| PTH 1-84   | +                  | -                      | -            |
| Calcitonin | +                  | -                      | -            |
| Denosumab  | +                  | +                      | +            |

\*post-hoc subgroup analysis

Bandeira F, 2013

# Results of indirect and mixed treatment comparison of fracture efficacy for osteoporosis treatments: a meta-analysis.

Network meta-analysis techniques (meta-analysis, adjusted indirect comparison, and mixed treatment comparison [MTC]) allow for treatment comparisons in the absence of head-to-head trials. In this study, conditional estimates of relative treatment efficacy derived through these techniques show important differences in the fracture risk reduction profiles of marketed pharmacologic therapies for postmenopausal osteoporosis.

Source articles were identified in MEDLINE; EMBASE; Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) via Wiley Interscience; and Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) between April 28, 2009 and November 4, 2009. Two reviewers identified English-language articles reporting randomized controlled trials (RCTs) with on-label dosing of marketed osteoporosis agents and fracture endpoints.

## RESULTS:

Using data from 34 studies, random effects meta-analysis showed:

All agents except etidronate significantly reduced the risk of new vertebral fractures compared with placebo.

Denosumab, risedronate, and zoledronic acid significantly reduced the risk for nonvertebral and hip fracture.

Alendronate, strontium ranelate, and teriparatide significantly reduced the risk for nonvertebral fractures.

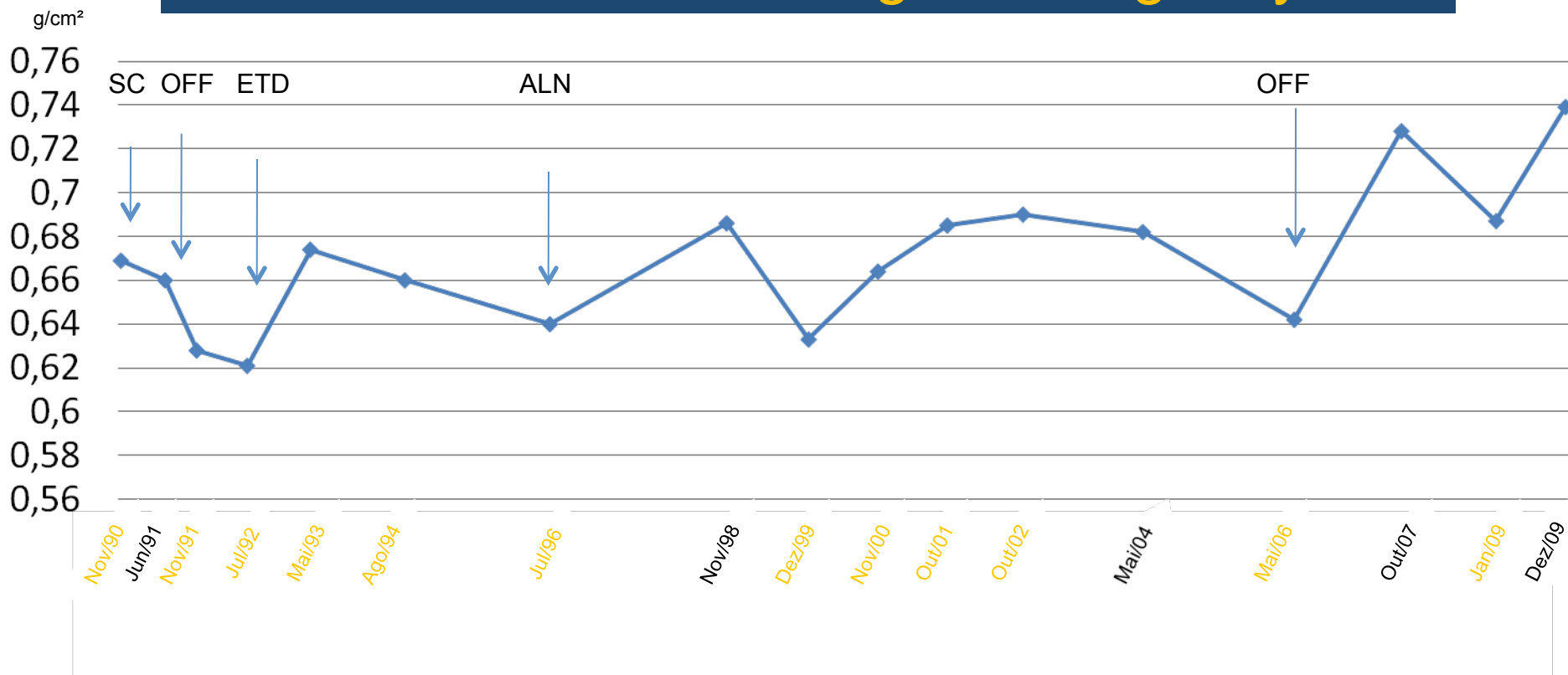
MTC showed denosumab to be more effective than strontium ranelate, raloxifene, alendronate, and risedronate in preventing new vertebral fractures.

Nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates differ in the strength of binding to bone surface, so...

**THE RESIDUAL EFFECT OF HIGHER-AFFINITY BISPHOSPHONATES MAY BE GOOD FOR THE PATIENT**

62 yr, VF (T10, T12), LSBMD -3.2, FNBMD -3

## Femoral Neck BMD changes during 20 years



CTX= 67 pg /ml  
25OHD = 34 ng / ml

LSBMD +12.7%  
FNBMD +17.6%

The goal of drug holiday is to allow suppressed bone turnover to partially recover without compromise anti-fracture efficacy,

**WITH THE POTENTIAL TO REDUCE LONG-TERM  
ADVERSE EFFECTS SUCH AS ONJ AND AFF**

# Adverse Effects of Bisphosphonate Therapy

## Short-term:

- Erosive pharyngitis
- Upper GI Adverse Effects
- Acute Phase Reaction
- Severe Musculoskeletal Pain
- Hypocalcemia
- Ocular Inflammation
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Seizures

## Long-Term

- Esophageal Cancer with oral BPs??
- Atypical femoral fractures
- Osteonecrosis of jaw
- Zebra lines at diaphysis



A 63-year-old white woman, menopausal for 13 years, was referred because of recurrent femoral subtrochanteric fractures.

The first one was at the left femur, which she had had for one year and which had not healed, as well as a recent fracture located at the right femur.

She reported pain at the fracture sites, but no history of trauma.

She has been taking alendronate for approximately five years and risedronate 35 mg/week during the previous 12 months

4 cases out of 790 pmw on long-term BPs (0.5%)

From 52,595 pmw with at least 5 yr of BPs:

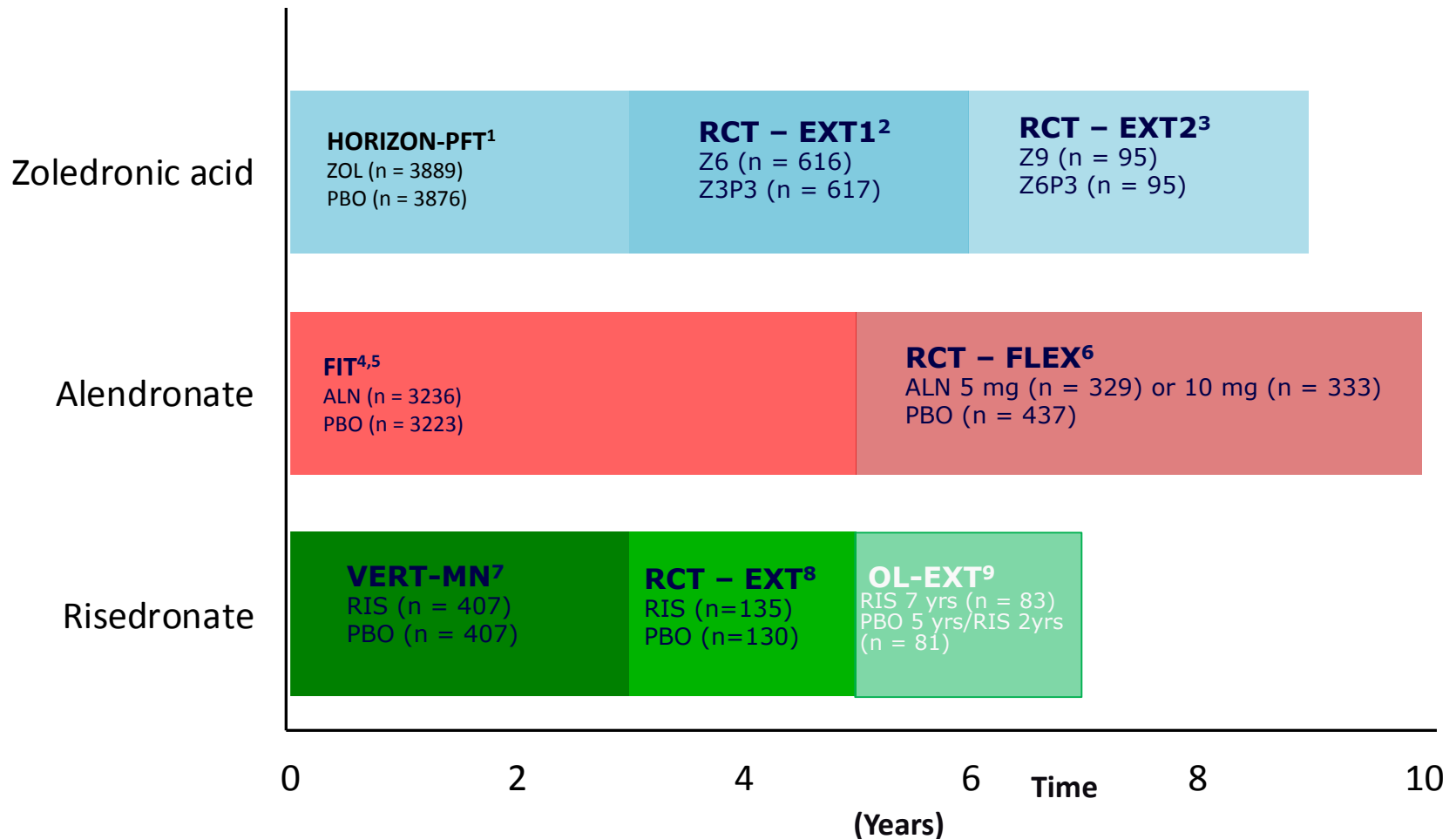
0.13% after 1yr

0.22% after 2yr

Carvalho NNC, Voss LA, Almeida MOP, Salgado CL & Bandeira F.  
*J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 2011

Park-Wyllie LY *et al JAMA* 2011

# Osteoporosis Treatment Extension Studies



ALN = alendronate; DB = double-blind; EXT 1= extension 1; EXT 2= extension 2; FIT = Fracture Intervention Trial; FLEX = FIT Long-term EXTension; HORIZON-PFT = Health Outcomes and Reduced Incidence with Zoledronic acid Once Yearly Pivotal Fracture Trial; OL, Open-label; PBO = placebo; RCT = randomized controlled trial; RIS = risedronate; VERT-MN = Vertebral Efficacy with Risedronate Therapy MultiNational; Z3P3 = zoledronic acid treatment for 3 years followed by placebo for 3 years; Z6 = zoledronic acid treatment for 6 years; ZOL = zoledronic acid.

1. Black DM, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2007;356:1809-1822. 2. Black DM, et al. *J Bone Miner Res*. 2012; 27:243-254. 3. ASBMR 2013 (abstract). 4. Black DM, et al. *Lancet*. 1996;348:1535-1541. 5. Cummings SR, et al. *JAMA*. 1998;280:1077-2082. 6. Black DM, et al. *JAMA*. 2006;296:2927-2938. 7. Reginster J-Y, et al. *Osteoporos Int*. 2000;11:83-91. 8. Sorensen OH, et al. *Bone*. 2003;32:120-126. 9. Mellström DD, et al. *Calif Tissue Int*. 2004;75:462-468.

## Long-Term Efficacy against Fracture for Three Bisphosphonates in Core Registration and Extension Studies.\*

| Study Phase              | Alendronate (Fosamax) |  | Risedronate (Actonel) |   | Zoledronic Acid (Reclast) |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
|                          | Yr                    | Patients with Osteoporotic Fracture                        | Yr                    | Patients with Osteoporotic Fracture             | Yr                        | Patients with Osteoporotic Fracture                                   |
| Core registration study† | 0–4                   | Placebo, 21.0%; alendronate, 10.6%                         | 0–3                   | Placebo, 32.1%; risedronate, 20.5%              | 0–3                       | Placebo, 20.0%; zoledronic acid, 9.8%                                 |
| Extension study          | 5–10                  | Alendronate/alendronate, 17.7%; alendronate/placebo, 16.9% | 4–5                   | Placebo, 32.1%; risedronate/risedronate, 19.3%; | 4–6                       | Zoledronic acid/zoledronic acid, 8.6%; zoledronic acid/placebo, 12.0% |
|                          |                       |  | 6–7                   | Risedronate/ risedronate/ risedronate, 13.3%    |                           |   |

**Risk of Clinical Vertebral Fracture and Number Needed to Treat for 5 Years to Prevent One Clinical Vertebral Fracture  
in the Fracture Intervention Trial Long-Term Extension (FLEX) Study.\***

| Femoral Neck BMD T Score at Start of Extension†                   | 5-Yr Risk of Clinical Vertebral Fracture |                    | Risk Difference<br>(95% CI) | Number<br>Needed to Treat |
|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
|   | Placebo Group                            | Alendronate Group‡ |                             |                           |
|   | no./total no. (%)                        |                    |                             |                           |
| All women in study  |  |                    |                             |                           |
| All BMD T scores  | 23/437 (5.5)                             | 16/662 (2.5)       | 2.9 (0.3–5.4)               | 34                        |
| Less than or equal to –2.5  | 11/132 (9.3)                             | 9/190 (4.5)        | 4.8 (0.8–9.2)               | 21                        |
| Greater than –2.5 and less than or equal to –2.0                  | 9/126 (5.8)                              | 3/185 (2.8)        | 3.0 (0.3–6.7)               | 33                        |
| Greater than –2.0   | 3/179 (2.3)                              | 4/282 (1.1)        | 1.2 (0.2–2.8)               | 81                        |
| Women with no prevalent vertebral fracture at start of FLEX study |  |                    |                             |                           |
| Less than or equal to –2.5  | 6/75 (8.0)                               | 4/109 (3.8)        | 4.2 (0.6–9.1)               | 24                        |
| Greater than –2.5 and less than or equal to –2.0                  | 3/82 (3.0)                               | 1/121 (1.4)        | 1.6 (0.2–5.0)               | 63                        |
| Greater than –2.0   | 2/130 (1.8)                              | 2/203 (0.9)        | 1.0 (0.1–2.6)               | 102                       |
| Women with prevalent vertebral fracture at start of FLEX study    |  |                    |                             |                           |
| Less than or equal to –2.5  | 5/57 (11.1)                              | 5/81 (5.3)         | 5.8 (0.8–12.1)              | 17                        |
| Greater than –2.5 and less than or equal to –2.0                  | 6/44 (11.1)                              | 2/64 (5.3)         | 5.8 (0.8–13.6)              | 17                        |
| Greater than –2.0   | 1/49 (3.7)                               | 2/79 (1.7)         | 2.0 (0.3–5.6)               | 51                        |



5 mg/day had the same result as 10 mg/day

# Extension of the HORIZON-FPT

- 67% reduction in new morphometric VFx at 3 yr (FPT)
- Z6 : 67% reduction in new VFx
- Z3P3: 37% reduction in new VFx
- RR=0.48 between the groups; p=0.04
- Benefit of 6 yr treatment:  
FNBMD at 3yr < 2.5 or a fracture during the 1<sup>st</sup> 3yr

Z6P3 vs Z9: NS

# **ALTERNATIVES TO “DRUG (bisphosphonate) HOLIDAY”**

# Other interventions during “drug holiday”

## Interventions that Reduce Fall Risk in Older Adults

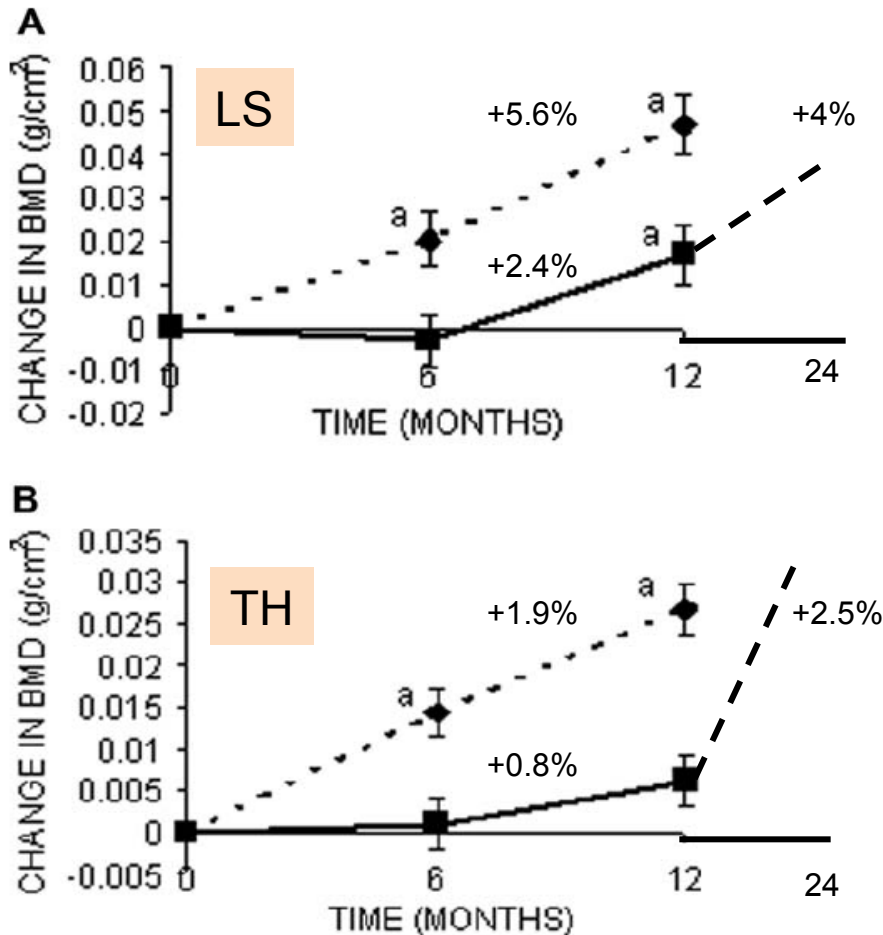
| Intervention   | Relative Risk Reduction |
|--|-------------------------|
| Multiple risk factor reduction   | 25%                     |
| Exercise interventions, Tai Chi  | 17-34%                  |
| Withdrawal of psychoactive medications                                   | 66%                     |
| Cataract surgery   | 34%                     |
| Home safety evaluation for high risk or visually impaired                | 22%                     |
| Vitamin D supplements (NH residents and insufficient community-dwellers) | 25%                     |

*Adapted from Gillespie et. al., Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews November, 2012*  
DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007146.pub3

For the high risk patient one alternative would be switch to another class of osteoporosis medication -

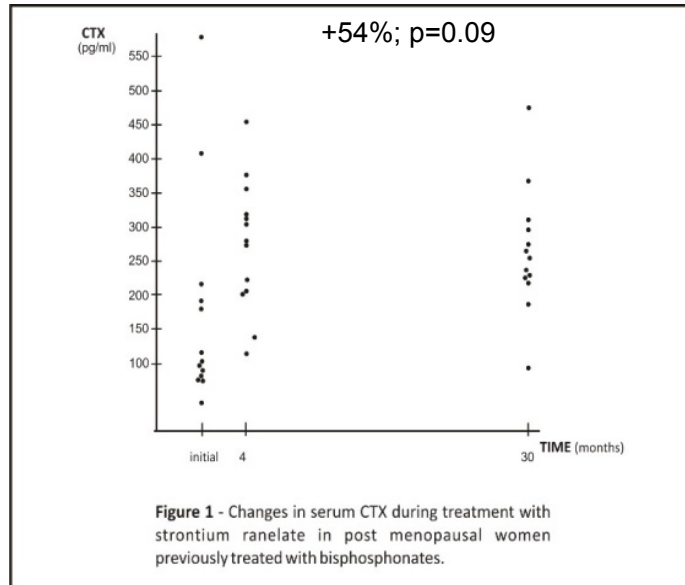
**STRONTIUM RANELATE**

# Changes in BMD and BTM of postmenopausal women on SR with and without previous treatment with BP

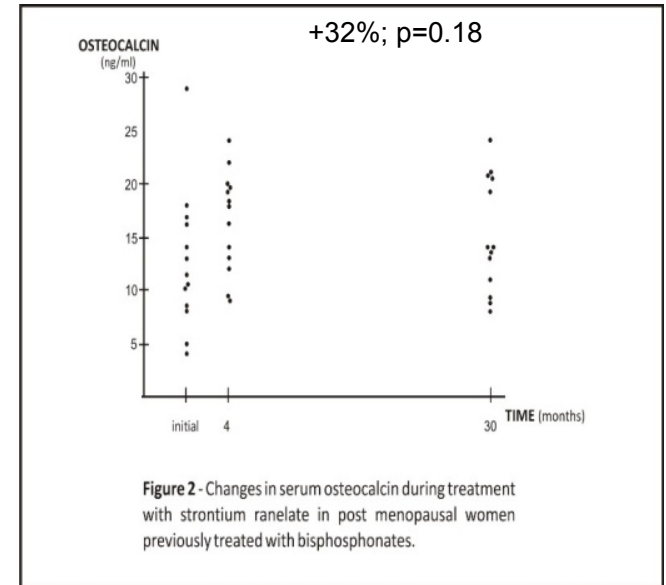


- BPs naive: No significant changes in BTM
- Prior BPs:
  - Serum CTX +61%
  - Serum P1NP +55%
  - Serum BSAP +46%

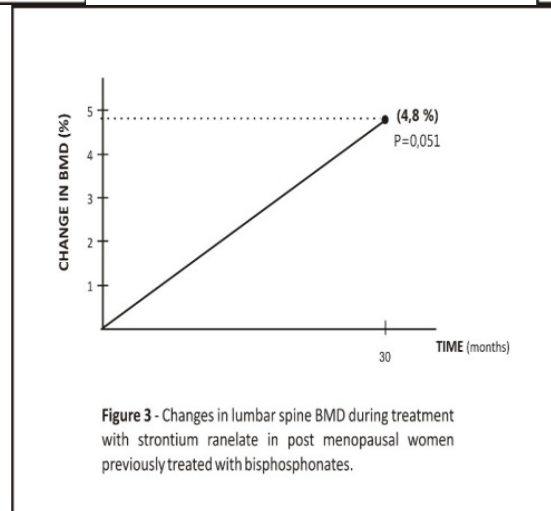
# Changes in serum CTx and osteocalcin after starting SR in postmenopausal women previously treated with BPs



CTX



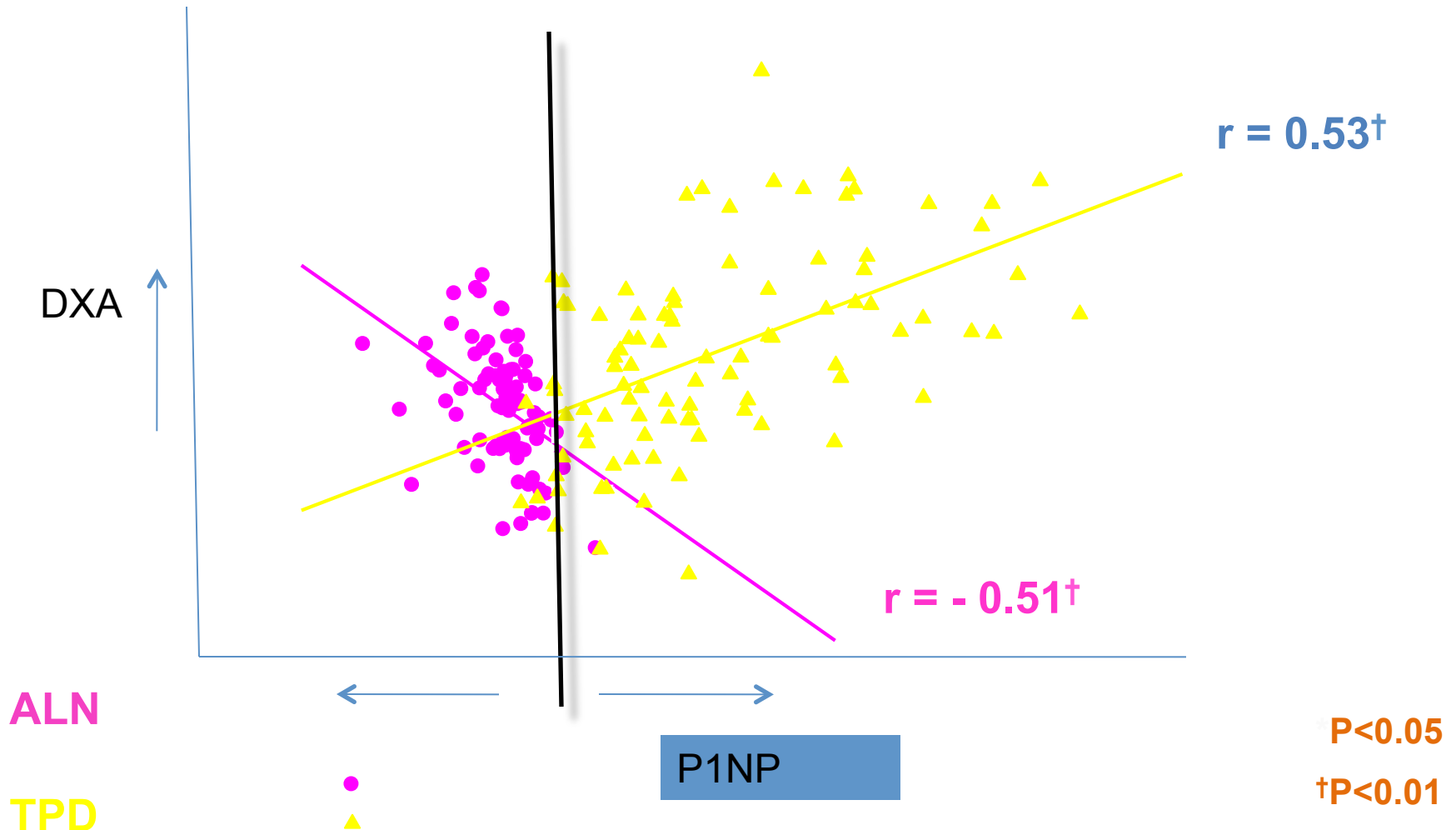
Osteocalcin



LSBMD

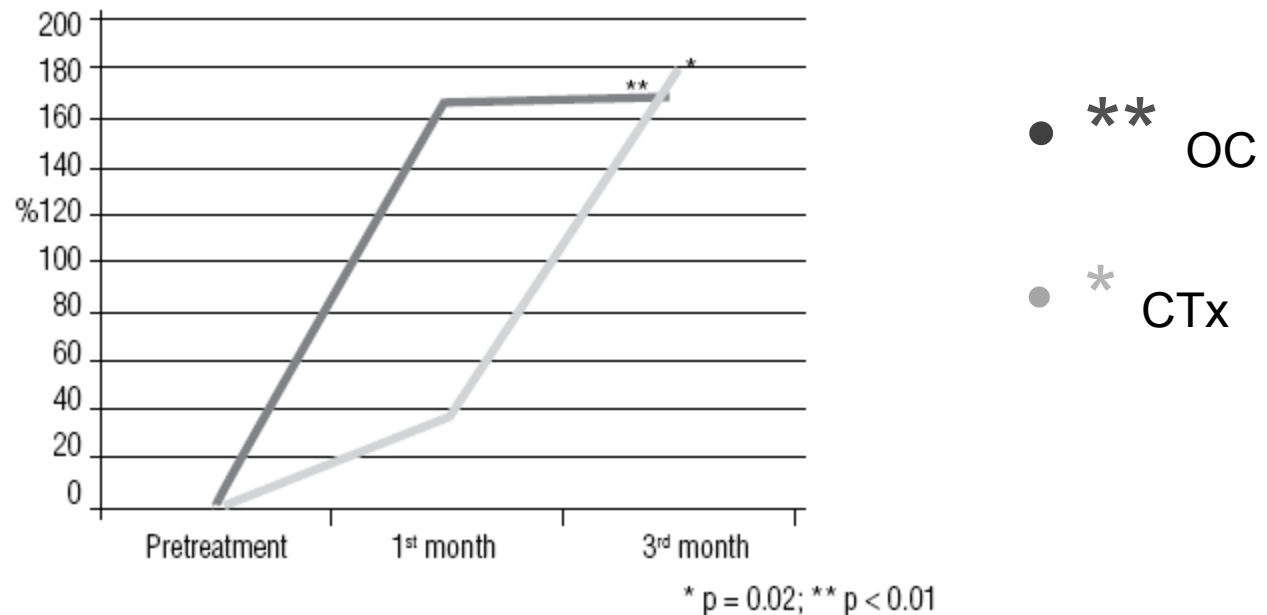
**TERIPARATIDE**

# Alendronate vs Teriparatide: BMD and P1NP



# Teriparatide in pmw after long-term BPs

## Short-term changes in BTM



**Figure 2.** Percent changes in serum  $\beta$ -CTX and osteocalcin after 1 and 3 months of therapy with teriparatide in patients with osteoporosis previously treated with bisphosphonates.

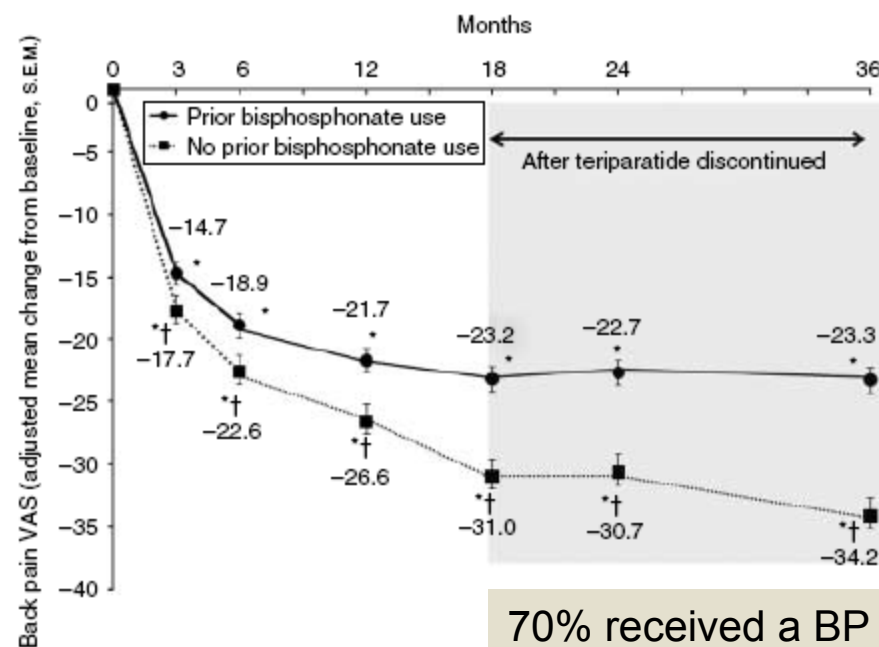
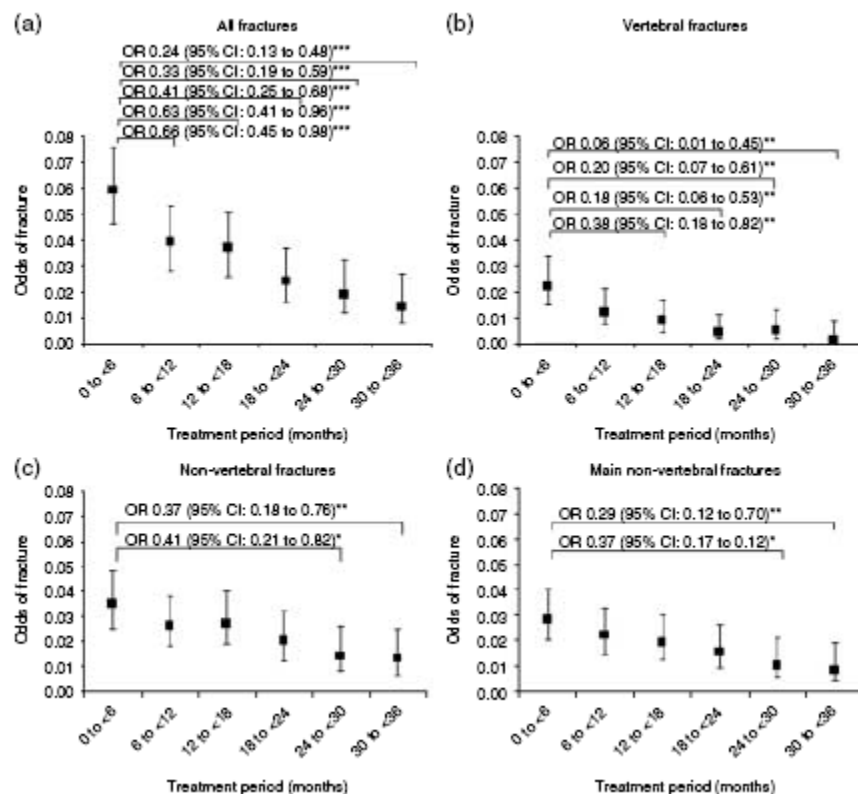
# Baseline characteristics of postmenopausal women on TPD with and without previous treatment with BPs

## European Forsteo Observation Study - EFOS

| Characteristic  | Prior BP use<br>(n=1161) | No prior BP use <sup>a</sup><br>(n=420) | P value <sup>b</sup> |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Demographics  |                          |   |                      |
| Age (years)   | 71.2 (8.1)               | 70.2 (9.0)                              | 0.038                |
| Caucasian (%)   | 99.1                     | 99.5                                    | 0.738                |
| BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )                                  | 25.0 (4.3)               | 25.5 (4.3)                              | 0.035                |
| Menopausal status   |                          |   |                      |
| Early menopause, <40 years of age (%)                     | 8.4                      | 10.4                                    | 0.253                |
| Surgical menopause (%)                                    | 20.4                     | 13.9                                    | 0.005                |
| Risk factors  |                          |   |                      |
| Nulliparous (%)   | 13.5                     | 11.9                                    | 0.401                |
| Current smoker (%)  | 13.2                     | 12.4                                    | 0.675                |
| Osteoporotic hip fracture in mother (%)                   | 20.3                     | 22.4                                    | 0.445                |
| Lumbar spine BMD T-score                                  | −3.22 (1.22)             | −3.41 (0.96)                            | 0.018                |
| Total hip BMD T-score                                     | −2.59 (1.06)             | −2.71 (0.99)                            | 0.087                |
| Uses arms when standing up from chair (%)                 | 60.8                     | 70.2                                    | 0.001                |
| Sight problems (%)  | 47.8                     | 37.4                                    | <0.001               |
| > 1 fall in the last year (%)                             | 22.7                     | 23.9                                    | 0.821                |
| Concomitant medications                                   | 747 (65.0)               | 253 (60.5)                              | 0.102                |
| Antihypertensives (%)                                     | 36.6                     | 39.0                                    | 0.377                |
| Glucocorticoids (%) <sup>c</sup>                          | 16.1                     | 11.2                                    | 0.017                |
| Thyroid hormones (%)                                      | 13.3                     | 13.4                                    | 0.967                |
| Benzodiazepines (%)                                       | 13.2                     | 8.6                                     | 0.013                |
| Antidepressants (%)                                       | 10.9                     | 8.4                                     | 0.147                |
| Anticonvulsants (%)                                       | 2.3                      | 0                                       | <0.001               |
| Comorbidities   |                          |   |                      |
| Rheumatoid arthritis (%)                                  | 12.4                     | 10.5                                    | 0.296                |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (%)                 | 9.2                      | 7.4                                     | 0.254                |
| Diabetes mellitus (%)                                     | 4.7                      | 7.9                                     | 0.014                |
| Parkinson disease and other movement disorders (%)        | 1.2                      | 2.9                                     | 0.023                |
| Prior fractures   |                          |   |                      |
| Patients with prior fractures (%)                         | 91.6                     | 78.3                                    | <0.001               |
| Time since most recent fracture (years) <sup>d</sup>      | 0.9 (0.2:2.6)            | 0.4 (0.1:1.7)                           | <0.001               |
| Number of previous fractures after age 40                 | 3.2 (2.0)                | 2.1 (1.7)                               | <0.001               |
| At least one fracture in 12 months before study entry (%) | 47.2                     | 51.7                                    | 0.117                |
| Baseline back pain and HRQoL                              |                          |   |                      |
| Back pain VAS   | 57.1 (26.4)              | 59.4 (27.3)                             | 0.135                |
| EQ-VAS  | 52.2 (20.8)              | 51.6 (25.1)                             | 0.653                |

<sup>a</sup>Of these 420 patients, 292 (69.5%) reported having prior osteoporosis medication use, mostly antiresorptives (n=217, 51.7%); 121 (28.8%) reported being treatment naive; data on other osteoporosis medication was missing/unknown for seven patients.

# EFOS - results



# Conclusions

- Bisphosphonates continue to be the first-line agents for the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis and the residual effect of some BPs may allow "drug holiday" to be implemented.

Although AFF is a rare event, it may cause considerable limitation for the patient, require surgical treatment and may follow with delayed healing.

"Drug holiday" may decrease the risk of adverse events without compromise the anti-fracture efficacy.

Follow up with BTM and BMD will allow the recognition of the appropriate time to re-started treatment.

Switch to strontium ranelate or teriparatide, or reduce the BP dose, beyond 5 years for ALN and 3 years for ZOL may be alternatives for the high risk patient.

Francisco Bandeira · Hossein Gharib  
Airtón Golbert · Luiz Griz · Manuel Faria *Editors*

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