

# Premenopausal Osteoporosis

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# Disclosures

Industry research support

- Eli Lilly
- Amgen

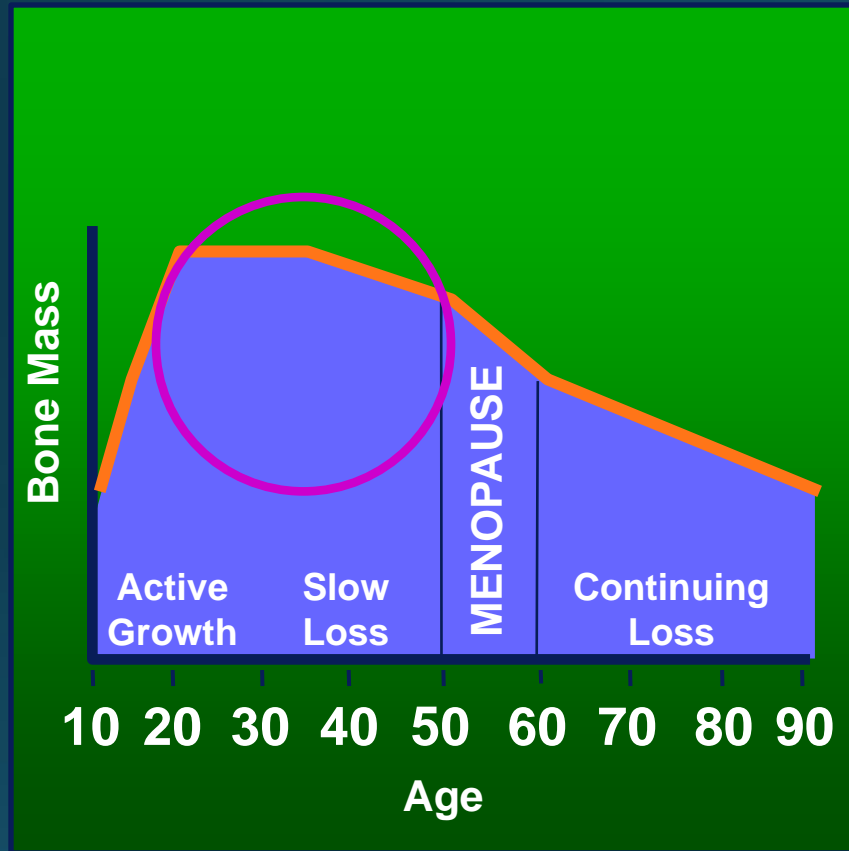
Off-Label uses of medications will be discussed.

# Objectives

To review special considerations that apply to premenopausal women in terms of:

- Diagnostic criteria and terminology
- Evaluation
- Management and medical treatment

# Bone Mass Changes Over a Woman's Lifetime



Adapted from Wasnich RD, et al. 1989:179-213

## Premenopausal years:

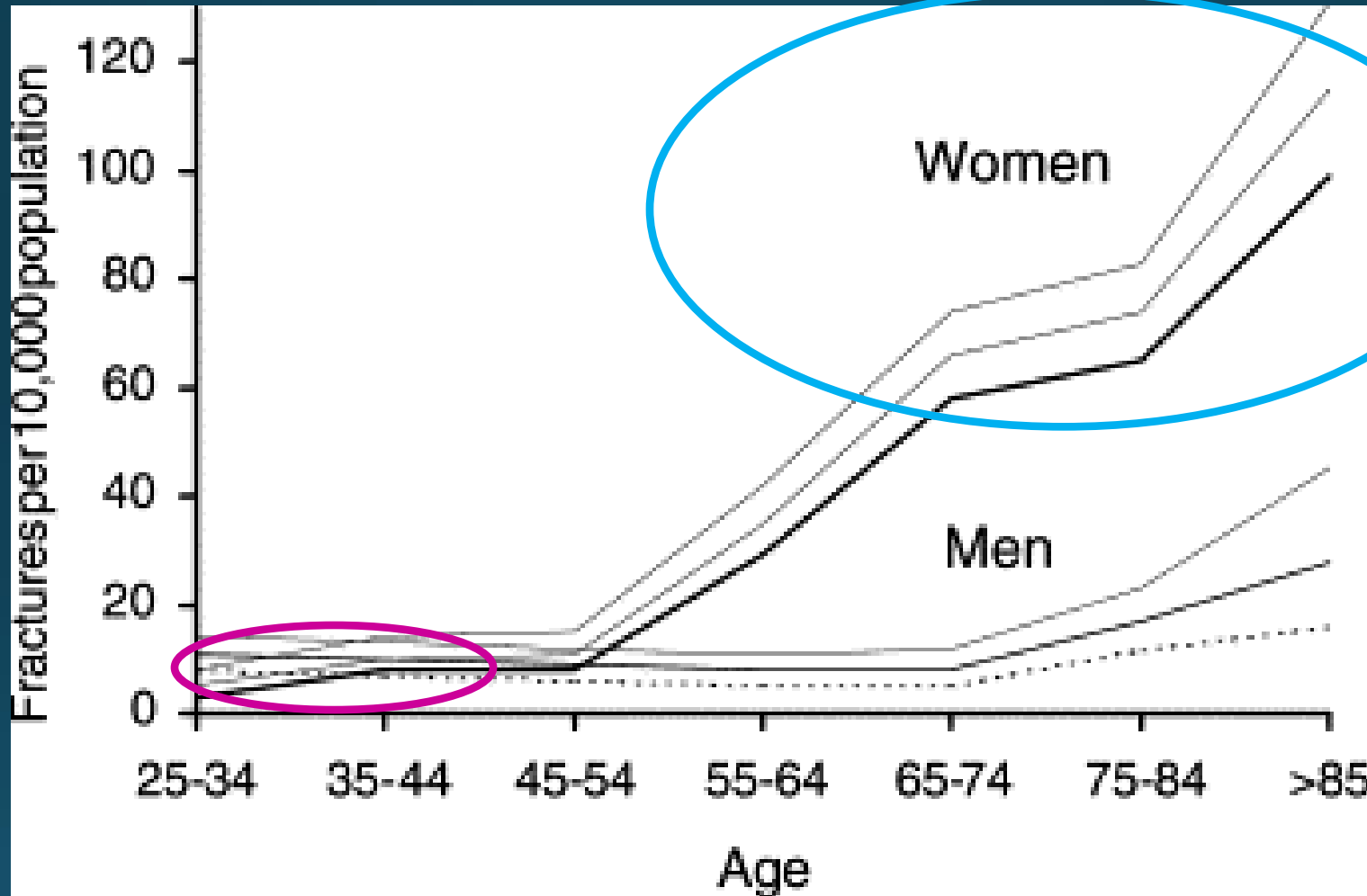
- Correspond with peak bone mass
- Generally considered a time of stable BMD

## PREMENOPAUSAL OSTEOPOROSIS IS

## RARE:

4.1 cases per 100,000 person-yrs<sup>1</sup>  
(based on fractures and low BMD)

# Premenopausal Fractures are RARE



Thompson, Injury 2004.

The incidence of distal radius fractures in men and women per 10,000 population per year and 95% confidence limits for Dorset residents.

# Osteoporosis before Menopause

- Although rare, bone fragility does present before menopause in some women.
- Diagnostic and management strategies for postmenopausal women cannot be applied uniformly in premenopausal women.

# CASES

## Case #1:

A 30-year-old healthy woman falls from a seated position on a window seat and sustains a fracture of her greater trochanter. Imaging and surgical pathology show no evidence of malignancy or osteomalacia.

BMD Z scores:	LS -2.5
	TH -2.8
	FN -3.1

Diagnosis: Osteoporosis?

# CASES

## Case #2:

A 30-year-old healthy woman with no known secondary cause of osteoporosis and **no fracture history** has a low bone density screening test at a health fair, leading to a DXA scan:

BMD Z scores:	LS -3.0
	TH -2.0
	FN -3.1

**Diagnosis: Osteoporosis?**



# Diagnostic Criteria

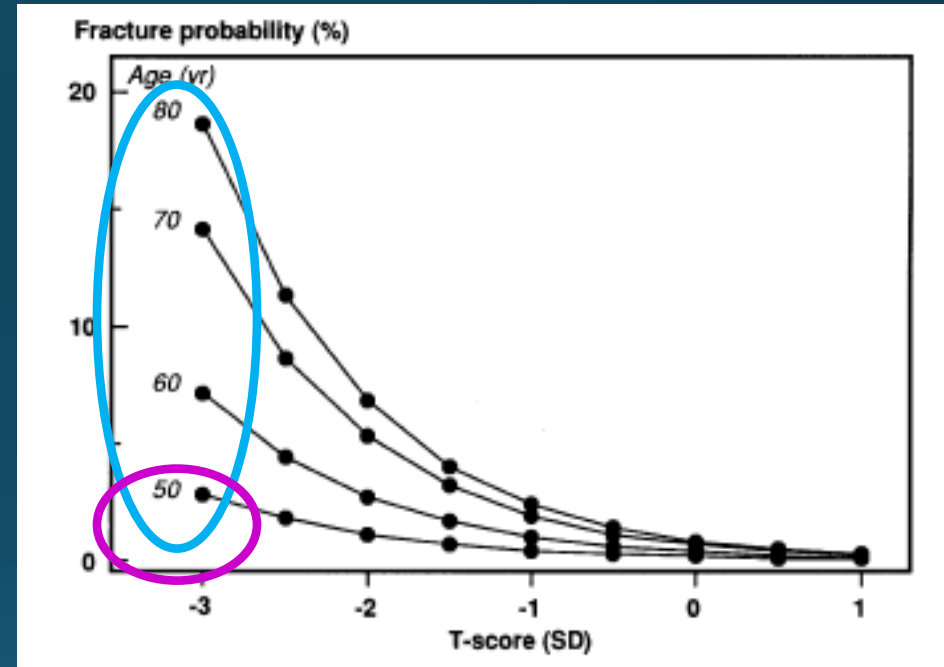
## for Osteoporosis in PREmenopausal women

1. The diagnosis of “osteoporosis” is most secure in the context of low trauma fracture. (Case #1)
2. Osteoporosis cannot be diagnosed based on BMD alone. (Case #2)

# Relationship between bone density and fracture risk is DIFFERENT in Premenopausal Women

In women  $\geq 50$ :  
Fracture risk is related  
to AGE and T-SCORE

Fracture incidence and prevalence are very low in PREmenopausal women.



Lack of Data: In Premenopausal Women, the relationship between BMD and FRACTURE RISK has not been clearly defined by prospective studies.

# Diagnostic Criteria for Osteoporosis in PREmenopausal women

1. The diagnosis of “osteoporosis” is most secure in the context of low trauma fracture.
2. Osteoporosis cannot be diagnosed based on BMD alone.
3. Screening BMD is not recommended  
BMD measurement is indicated for those with fracture(s) or a known secondary cause of bone loss.

# Diagnostic Criteria

## for Osteoporosis in PREmenopausal women

4. Because of a lack of prospective data, DXA BMD (alone or as part of FRAX) cannot be used to:
  - Predict fracture risk
  - Make treatment decisions
5. Thus, to avoid the diagnostic and treatment implications of the T score, ISCD recommends reporting Z scores.

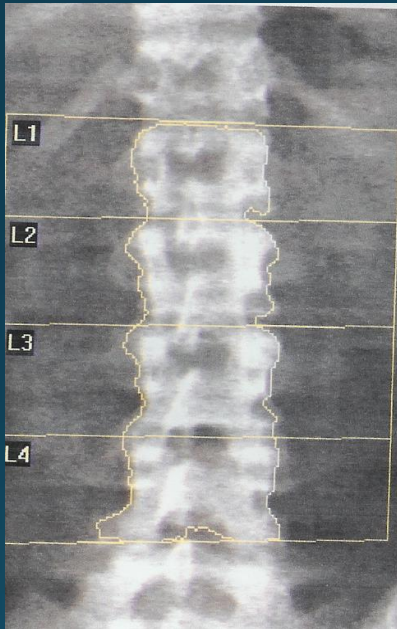
# Exceptions

- **ISCD:** T scores should be used for perimenopausal women.
- **IOF:** Osteoporosis can be defined based on T score  $\leq -2.5$  in adult women with a known, ongoing secondary cause of bone loss or fragility.

# TERMINOLOGY – ISCD Recommendations

## “Osteoporosis”

- Applies only to those with
  - Low trauma fracture
  - Secondary cause of bone loss
  - NOT based on BMD alone



## “Osteopenia”

- Should not be used to describe BMD in premenopausal women

# CASES

Case #1: Can be said to have “osteoporosis” based on her fracture history

Case #2: Diagnosis?

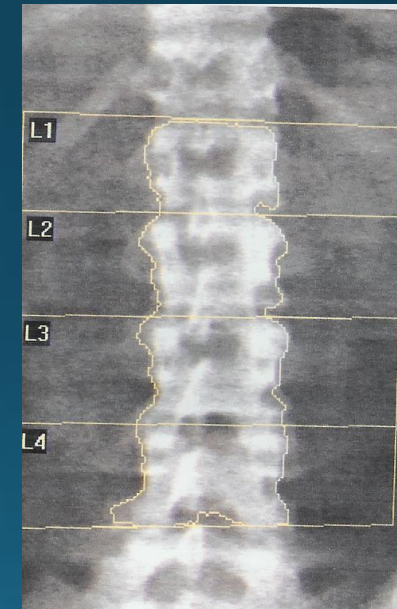
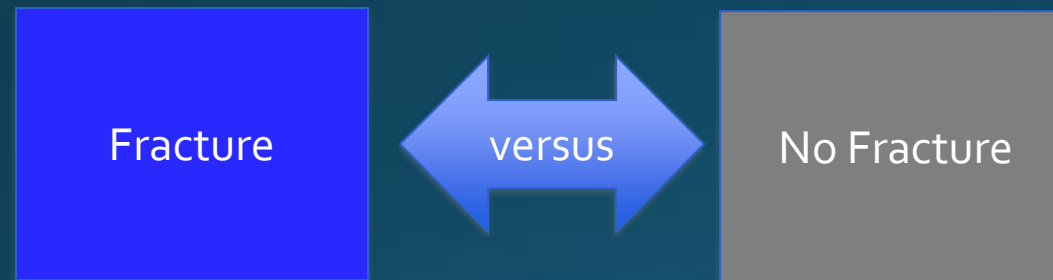
Low BMD – NO fracture, no known predisposing condition

- Cannot be said to have “osteoporosis”
- BMD  $Z < -2$  could be described as “BMD less than expected for age”

Does her BMD give us any information about her bone structure or strength?

# Cross Sectional Studies: BMD relates to Bone Strength in Premenopausal Women

- **Case-Control studies:** young women with fractures have lower BMD





# Premenopausal Women with Idiopathic Osteoporosis: Bone Structural Studies

40 Healthy  
Controls

45 with Low Trauma  
Fracture

19 with  
Very Low BMD

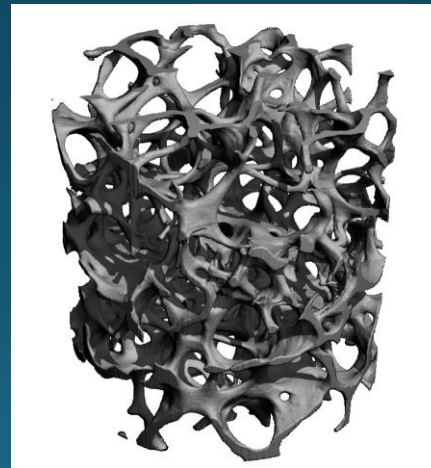
## At the tissue level (bone biopsies):

- Young women with fractures have substantial structural deficits
- Young women with very low BMD and no fractures ALSO have substantial microstructural deficits

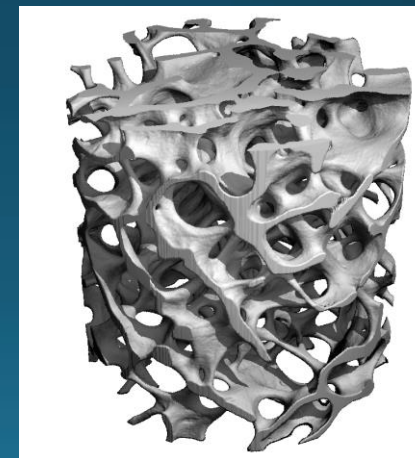
Trabecular  
Compartment  
By MicroCT  
Müller lab,  
ETH, Zurich



Control



FRACTURE



LOW BMD

# Premenopausal Women with Idiopathic Osteoporosis: Bone Structural Studies

**40 Healthy  
Controls**

**45 with Low Trauma  
Fracture**

**19 with  
Very Low BMD**

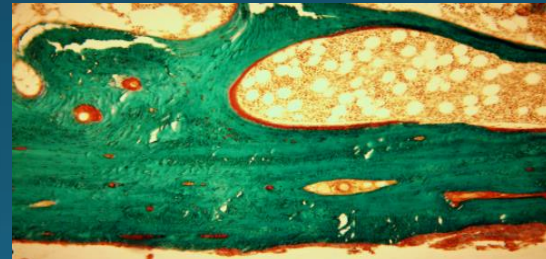
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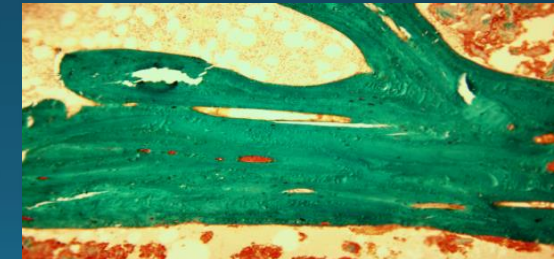
Cortical  
Thickness →  
Histomorphometry  
Dempster lab,  
Helen Hayes Hospital



**Control**



**FRACTURE**



**LOW BMD**

# Premenopausal Women with Idiopathic Osteoporosis: Bone Structural Studies

**40 Healthy  
Controls**

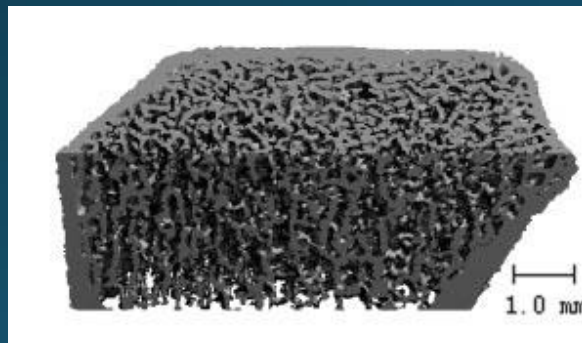
**45 with Low Trauma  
Fracture**

**19 with  
Very Low BMD**

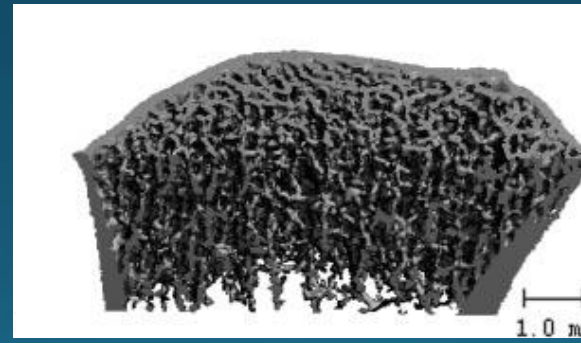
## 3D Imaging studies

- Young women with fractures have substantial structural deficits
- Young women with very low BMD and no fractures ALSO have substantial microstructural deficits

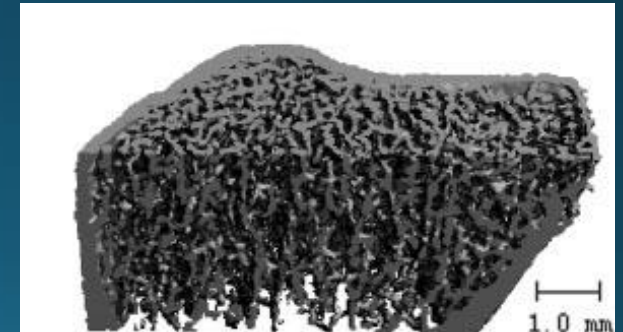
High  
Resolution  
Peripheral  
QCT



**Control**



**FRACTURE**



**LOW BMD**

# Could this be an effect of bone SIZE? 3D CT studies:

**19 with  
Very Low BMD  
No Adult LT Fx  
Unclear osteoporosis  
status**

- Lowest BMI (mean  $21.6 \pm 3.5$  vs mean 23, 26 in the other groups)
- Smaller Radial and Tibial Area by peripheral QCT
- Smaller vertebral cross sectional area by central QCT
- \*3D microarchitectural deficiencies vs controls, even after controlling for bone size

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Galusca et al recruited women based on body size:

**28 Healthy  
Controls  
Mean BMI ~ 21**

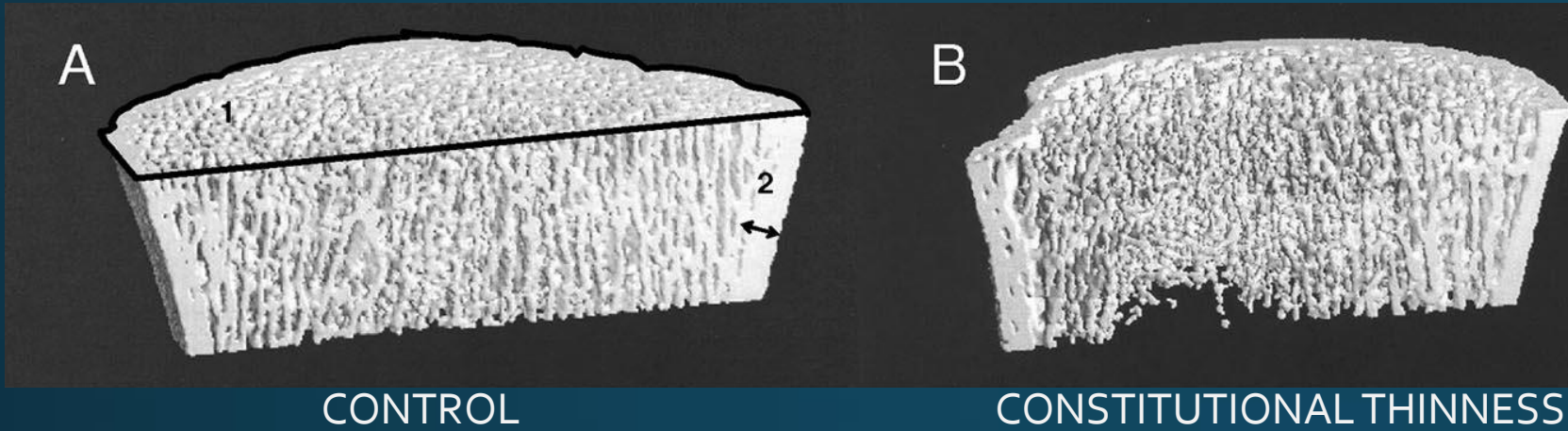
**44 with  
Anorexia Nervosa**

**25 with Constitutional Thinness:**  
BMI < 16.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, normal menses, no 2° cause  
Unclear osteoporosis status

- CT and AN group both had low BMD by DXA vs controls
  - CT group had the smallest bone size
  - CT and AN groups BOTH had 3D microarchitectural defects
- And decreased estimated bone strength



# Peripheral QCT (Tibia):



Asymptomatic low BMD, even with small bone/body size, is associated with structural abnormalities that lower predicted strength

Galusca et al recruited women based on body size:

**28 Healthy Controls**  
**Mean BMI ~ 21**

**44 with Anorexia Nervosa**

**25 with Constitutional Thinness:**  
BMI < 16.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, normal menses, no 2<sup>o</sup> cause  
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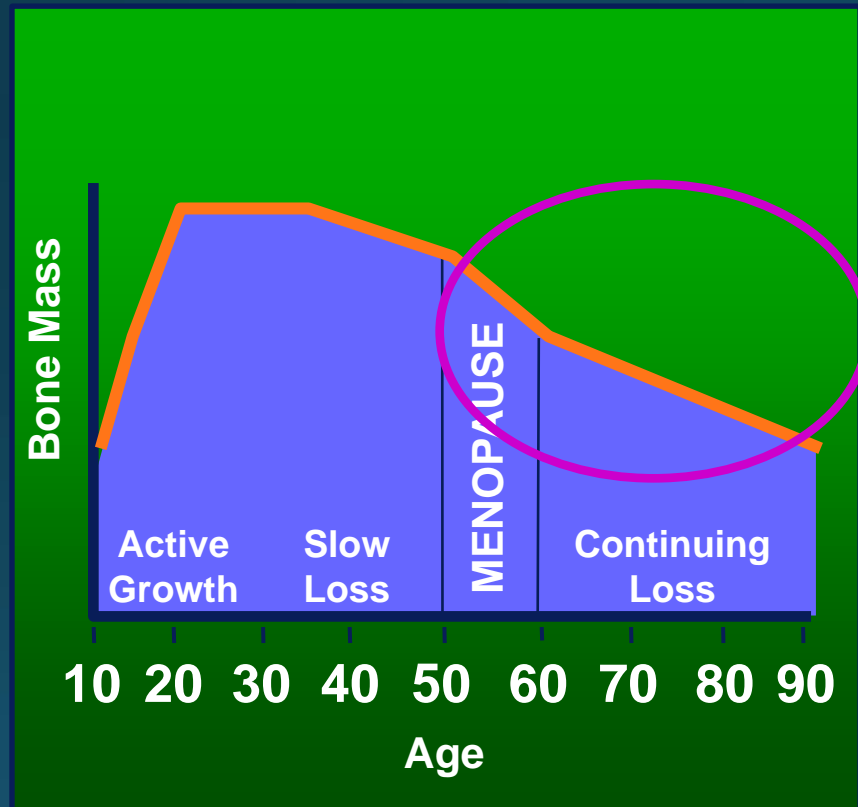
- CT and AN group both had low BMD by DXA vs controls
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- And decreased estimated bone strength

# Bone Mass Trajectory:

## Are Case 1 and 2 actively losing bone?

Postmenopausal Women

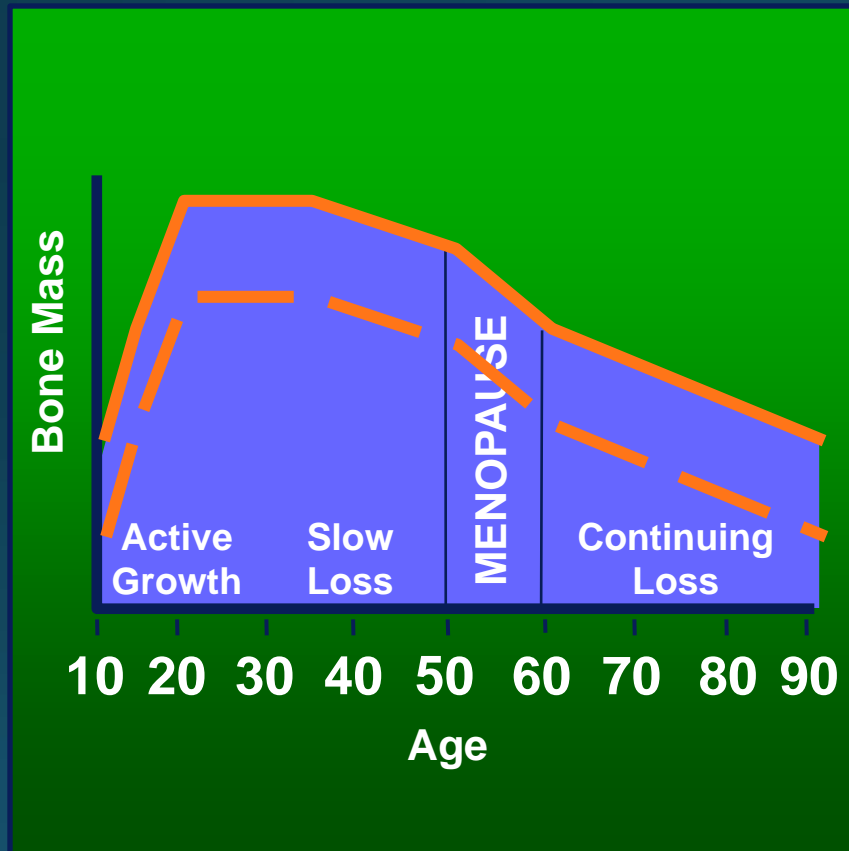
Premenopausal Women



Adapted from Wasnich RD, et al. 1989:179-213

# Peak Bone Mass VARIES:

Low BMD may not signify an active process of bone loss



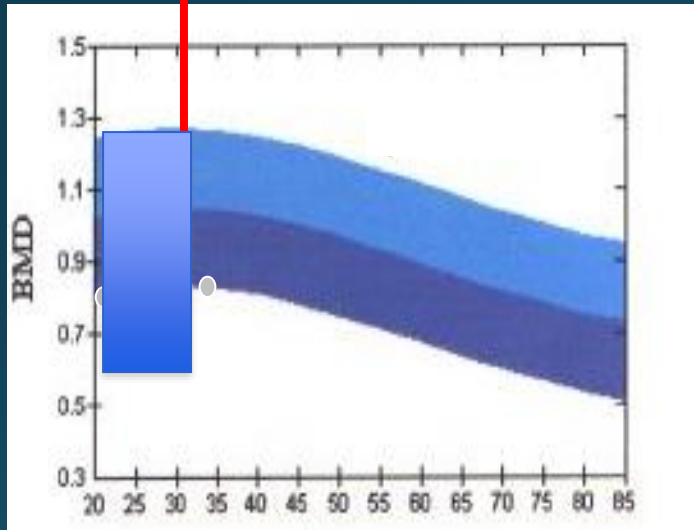
## Low Peak Bone Mass

Everyone reaches a peak of bone mass accrual.

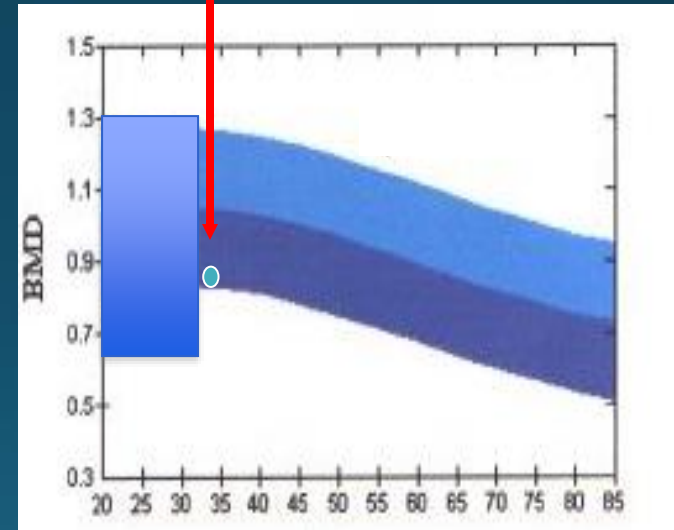
Not everyone reaches an OPTIMAL peak of bone mass accrual.

# Expectations for Bone Mass Trajectory

Optimal peak bone mass not reached



Active bone losing state



- Genetic Cause (~50-80% of variability in bone mass is heritable<sup>1,2</sup>)
- Illness or Medication exposure, now resolved

ONGOING Secondary Cause

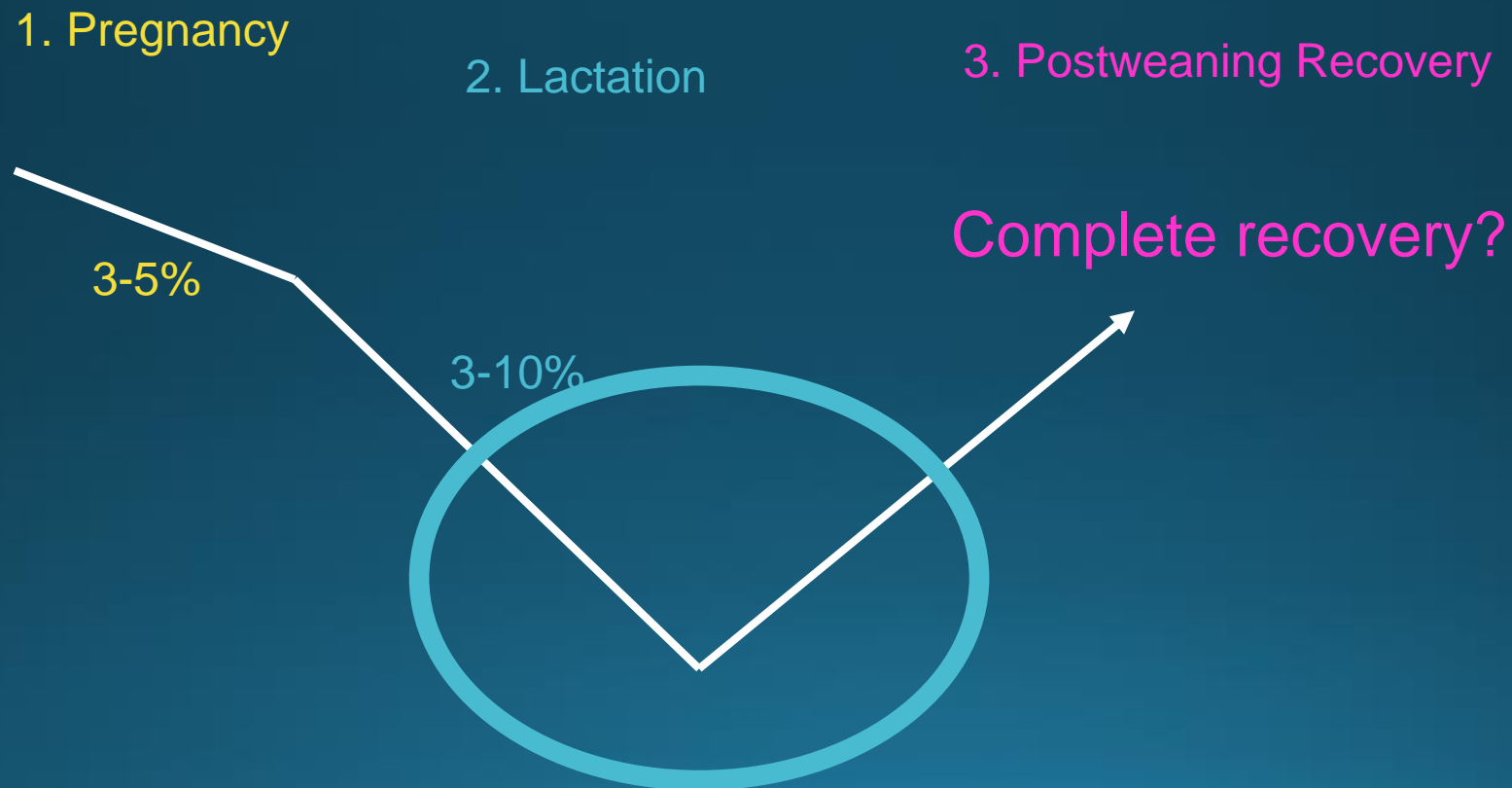


# Bone Mass Trajectory

**Pregnancy and Lactation**

“Low BMD” in a premenopausal woman  
may be related to:

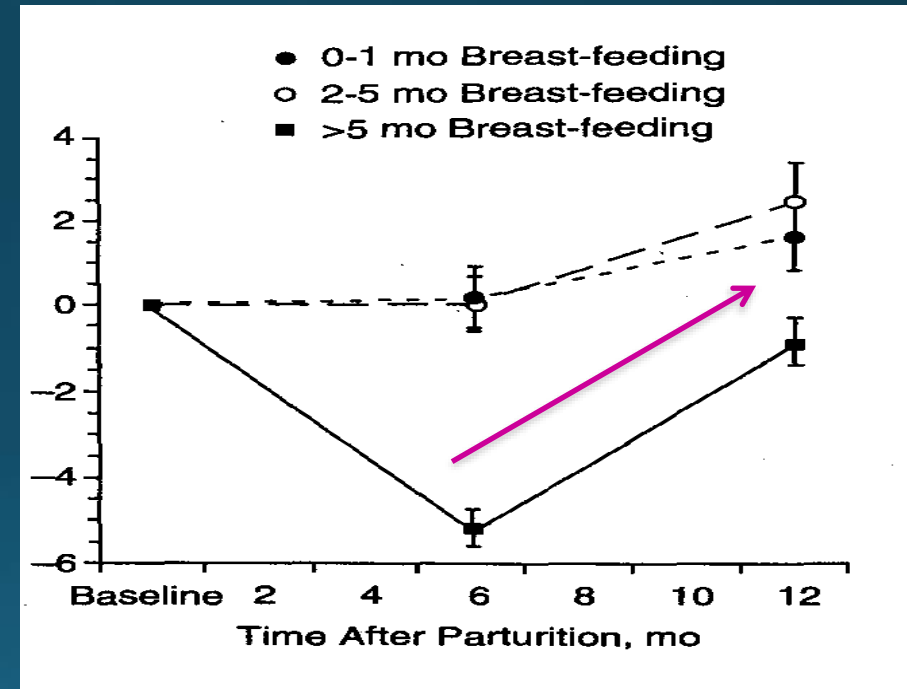
## Physiologic BMD Changes of Pregnancy & Lactation



# Clinical Implications of the Normal Bone Metabolism Changes Associated with Pregnancy and Lactation

Every bone mass measurement in a premenopausal woman must be placed into the context of these normal and expected changes.

- Low bone mass in a woman who is nursing, 5 months postpartum, can be expected to improve significantly on future measurements.



%Change LS BMD  $\pm$  SE  
N=98

Sowers et al, JAMA, 1993

# Clinical Implications of the Normal Bone Metabolism Changes Associated with Pregnancy and Lactation

Rarely, fractures occur in the context of these expected bone mass changes

## Pregnancy & Lactation Associated Osteoporosis (PLO or PAO):

- Low trauma or spontaneous fractures
- Usually multiple vertebral fractures (in >80%)
- During late pregnancy or lactation
- Majority have no known predisposing condition
- Very rare, described in case reports/case series
- Recent larger cohort study (Kyvernitakis et al, OI 2018)
  - ~100 subjects, median follow up = 6 years
  - Subsequent fractures reported in 24% - suggesting ongoing bone fragility

We are recruiting participants: FDA funded study to investigate etiologies, mechanisms of disease, and genetic characteristics (referrals welcome!)



36 year old woman  
presenting with back pain  
while breastfeeding  
5 months postpartum

Choe et al JBMM 2012

# EVALUATION AND TREATMENT

# Who needs an evaluation?

- Low BMD (with or without known secondary cause)
- Low trauma fracture
  - Especially:
    - Major sites (femoral neck, vertebrae)
    - Multiple fractures, including multiple stress fractures
- What is “low trauma”
  - **Acute Injury:** Fracture sustained in context of trauma = fall from standing height or less
  - **Stress Fracture:** fatigue induced fracture from repeated stress over time
    - can be considered low trauma if consistent with insufficiency fracture

Normal use -  
Insufficiency Fracture

Overuse -  
Stress Fracture

Judgement is required to determine how much physical activity is overuse

# Evaluation of Premenopausal Women with Low Trauma Fractures (or Low BMD\*):

## The Search for Primary and Secondary Causes

\*Screening BMD is not recommended

# General Approach to Evaluation of Early-Onset Osteoporosis in Adults:

1. Does the patient have any findings c/w **PRIMARY (genetic or developmental)** osteoporosis/bone disorder?

- Osteogenesis imperfecta

- Marfan or Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes

- Hypophosphatasia

- Other known genetic etiologies

2. Does the patient have any evidence of a **SECONDARY CAUSE**: underlying conditions or medication exposures that could cause bone fragility



Most premenopausal women with low BMD *or* low-trauma fracture have an underlying disorder or medication exposure

These SECONDARY CAUSES may:

- Interfere with peak BMD acquisition
- or -
- Cause excessive bone loss thereafter

# Secondary Causes of Osteoporosis in Young Women

- Endocrine
  - Estrogen deficiency
    - Pituitary diseases
    - Hypothalamic amenorrhea
    - Medications (GnRHa, DMPA)
  - Anorexia Nervosa (multifactorial)
  - Hyperthyroidism
  - Cushing's syndrome
  - Primary hyperparathyroidism
  - Primary Hypercalciuria
- Gastrointestinal/Nutritional
  - Celiac disease
  - Inflammatory bowel disease
  - Postoperative states
  - Cystic Fibrosis
- Inflammatory Conditions
  - Rheumatoid arthritis
  - SLE
- Other
  - Liver disease (esp cholestatic)
  - Renal disease
  - Gaucher disease
  - Mastocytosis
  - Hemochromatosis
  - Thalessemia
  - Diabetes 1 & 2
- Medications
  - Glucocorticoids
  - Some antiepileptic drugs
  - GnRH agonists and DMPA
  - TZDs
  - Heparin
- Idiopathic

# How often can a secondary cause be found?

In a population-based study →

90% found to have 2<sup>o</sup> causes

Khosla et al, 1994

In series from tertiary referral populations →

44-53% found to have 2<sup>o</sup> causes

Kulak et al, 2000, Peris et al, 2003, Cohen et al, 2006

# EVALUATION FOR 2<sup>o</sup> CAUSES

# Important Aspects of the Clinical History:

- Fractures
- Kidney stones
- Menstrual history, pregnancy, lactation
- Dieting & exercise behavior
- Current or prior eating disorders
- Family history
- Subtle GI symptoms
- Medications, including OTC supplements

# Physical Examination

Some secondary causes may be associated with findings on physical examination:

- Anorexia nervosa
- GI malabsorption
- Cushing syndrome
- Thyroid hormone excess
- Connective tissue disorders
- Cholestatic liver disease

# Initial Laboratory Evaluation

- Complete blood count
- Electrolytes, renal function
- Serum calcium, phosphate
- Serum albumin, transaminases, total alkaline phosphatase
- Serum TSH
- PTH
- Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D
- ESR
- Celiac screen
- 24 hour urine for calcium and creatinine
- 24 hour urine for free cortisol (if indicated)

MANAGEMENT



# General Measures – Appropriate for MOST *May lead to small increases in BMD*

- Institute of Medicine Recommendations (2010):
  - Calcium: 1000 mg/day
  - Vitamin D: 600 IU/day
- Exercise <sup>1</sup>
- Nutrition
  - Maintain healthy weight <sup>2,3</sup>, avoid excess dieting <sup>2,4</sup>
- Lifestyle
  - Smoking cessation
  - Avoid excess alcohol

1. Wallace & Cumming, Calcif Tiss Int, 2000, Mein JBMR 2004
2. Hawker, Osteoporos Int, 2002
3. Bainbridge, Osteoporos Int, 2004
4. Bacon, Eur J Clin Nutr, 2004

# Address Underlying Cause, if Possible

Disease	Management
Anorexia Nervosa	Nutritional rehabilitation Miller JCEM 2006
Estrogen Deficiency	Estrogen (unless contraindicated) Sagsveen Cochrane DB 2003, Cundy JCEM 2003
Idiopathic Hypercalciuria	Consider thiazides Adams Annals Int Med 1999 (in men)
1° Hyperparathyroidism	Parathyroidectomy Lumachi Ann NY Acad Sci 2007
Celiac Disease	Gluten-free diet Mautalen Am J Gastroenterol 1997 Newnham J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2016 Zanchetta JBMR 2016

# Management

## When should medications be used?

### 1. Idiopathic/Isolated Low BMD: CASE #2

- Pharmacologic treatment is rarely indicated since fracture risk is unknown
- Optimize bone health with non-pharmacologic lifestyle measures
- Follow BMD – decline may indicate undiagnosed secondary causes
- Consider more aggressive Rx at menopause: LOW premenopausal BMD is associated with an increased risk of postmenopausal fractures (Torgerson JBMR 1996)

### 2. Low BMD + Ongoing Secondary Cause

- GIO
- Other secondary causes

# Management: GIO

## Low BMD or Fractures in the context of GC use

### Specific recommendations for GIO:

Am Col of Rheum 2017 Guidelines for Women < 40:

- RX recommended for those with prior osteoporotic fracture
- **In the absence of fracture, guidance is very conservative:**  
RX recommended for those
  - on  $\geq 7.5\text{mg/day}$  for  $\geq 6$  months **AND**
  - Z score < -3 or bone loss > 10%/yr at spine/hip
- Oral bisphosphonates preferred

# Management

## When should medications be used?

### 1. Idiopathic/Isolated Low BMD (Case #2)

- Pharmacologic treatment is rarely indicated since fracture risk is unknown
- Optimize bone health with non-pharmacologic lifestyle measures
- Follow BMD
- Consider more aggressive Rx at menopause

### 2. Low BMD + Ongoing Secondary Cause

- As with GIO, Rx may be indicated for those with
  - Very low BMD
  - Large declines in BMD

(Some might use cutoffs less conservative than  $T < -3$  or bone loss  $>10\%$  )

### 3. LOW TRAUMA FRACTURES (Case #1)

Fractures of the spine or hip  
Multiple fractures  
Clearly low trauma fractures  
Fractures + secondary cause  
Fractures + bone loss




Lead to consideration  
of treatment options

# Treatment Options for Osteoporosis in Premenopausal Women

- **Anti-resorptive agents:**


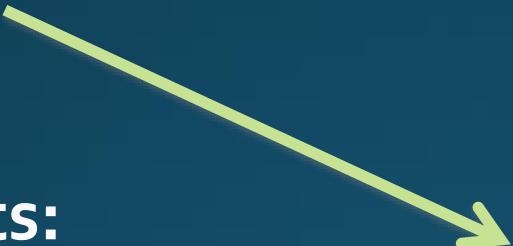
- Estrogen
- Bisphosphonates
- SERMS (eg Raloxifene)
- Denosumab



SERMS: Should not be used to treat bone loss in premenopausal women since they block E2 action on bone and lead to further bone loss in menstruating women <sup>1,2</sup>

- **Anabolic agents:**

- Teriparatide
- Abaloparatide
- Romosozumab



Efficacy and safety not defined in premenopausal women  
Denosumab: Category X in pregnancy (toxicity in primates)  
Abaloparatide and Romosozumab:  
No pregnancy data

# Treatment Options for Osteoporosis in Premenopausal Women

## Bisphosphonates:

Short term BMD improvement in premenopausal women with

- Lupus and other AI diseases
- GC exposure
- Pregnancy associated osteoporosis

Some are FDA approved for use in premenopausal GIO

- alendronate, risedronate

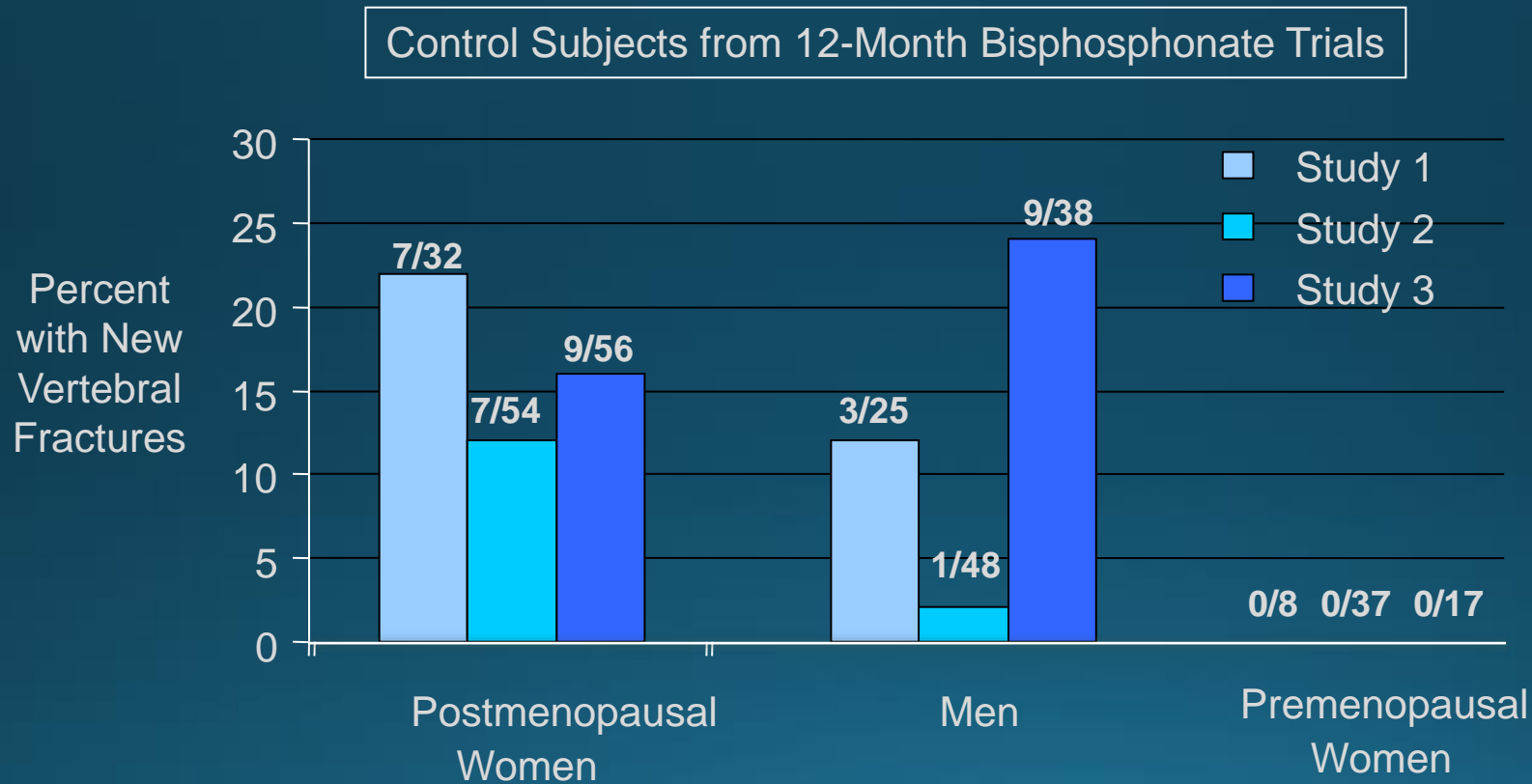
## Treatment not indicated in all:

Long term risks are unknown

No fracture data

# Premenopausal Women On Glucocorticoid Therapy May Not Be At High Risk Of Fracture

Few premenopausal women in large RCTs of bisphosphonates for GLOP



1. Adachi, *N Engl J Med* 1997
2. Saag, *N Engl J Med* 1998
3. Wallach S, *Calcif Tiss Int* 2000



# Bisphosphonates in Premenopausal Women: Special Considerations re RISK

- **LONG-TERM EFFECTS**
  - Long term effects on bone health are unknown
  - Potential risks of long term use: ONJ, atypical femoral fractures
- **RISKS FOR FUTURE PREGNANCY**
  - Accumulate in skeleton <sup>1</sup>
  - Category C rating for safety in pregnancy
    - Toxic effects in rats <sup>2</sup>
    - Cross placenta and accumulate in fetal rat bones <sup>3</sup>
  - Unknown effects on the human fetus
  - >50 reported normal pregnancy outcomes <sup>4-10</sup>

**Risks and duration of use must be considered**

**in young women**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Papopoulos, Bone 2006                    | 6. Chan, J Clin Endocrinol Metab, 2006 |
| 2. Minsker, Toxicol Appl Pharmacol 1993     | 7. O' Sullivan, Osteoporos Int, 2006   |
| 3. Patlas, Teratology, 1999                 | 8. Ornoy, Reproduct Toxicol, 2006      |
| 4. Biswas, Osteoporos Int, 2003             | 9. Levy, Bone 2009                     |
| 5. Illidge, Clin Oncol (R Coll Radio), 1996 | 10. Munns, J Bone Miner Res, 2004      |

# Teriparatide/PTH(1-34) for Premenopausal Women

- Amenorrheic premenopausal women on GnRH agonists for endometriosis<sup>1</sup>: Prevents bone loss.
- Young women on GCs<sup>2</sup>: Increases BMD significantly more than alendronate.
- Premenopausal women with idiopathic osteoporosis<sup>3</sup>: Improves BMD/structure
- Anorexia nervosa: Improves BMD<sup>4</sup>
- Pregnancy associated osteoporosis: Improves BMD<sup>5,6</sup>

1. Finkelstein et al, JAMA 1998
2. Langdahl et al, Osteoporos Int 2009
3. Cohen et al, JCEM 2013
4. Fazeli et al, JCEM 2014
5. Choe et al, JBMM 2012
6. Hong et al Clin Endoc 2018

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6. Hong et al Clin Endoc 2018

# Teriparatide for Premenopausal Women: Special Considerations

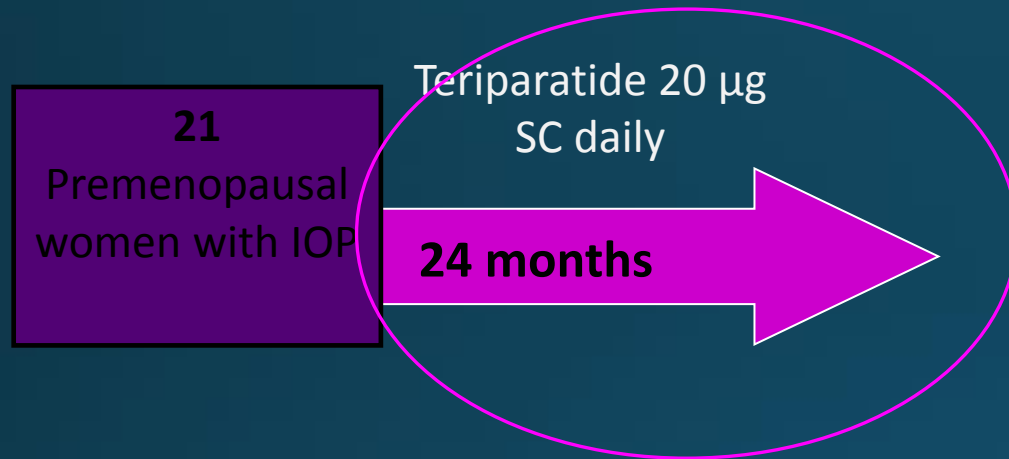
- Only approved in the setting of GIO.
- **Osteosarcoma risk (no longer a black box warning):**

**Osteosarcoma:** Osteosarcoma has been reported in patients treated with FORTEO in the post marketing setting; however, an increased risk of osteosarcoma has not been observed in observational studies in humans. Avoid use in patients with increased baseline risk of osteosarcoma including patients with open epiphyses (pediatric and young adult patients), metabolic bone diseases including Paget's disease of the bone, bone metastases or history of skeletal malignancies, prior external beam or implant radiation therapy involving the skeleton, and hereditary disorders predisposing to osteosarcoma. There is limited data assessing the risk of osteosarcoma beyond 2 years.

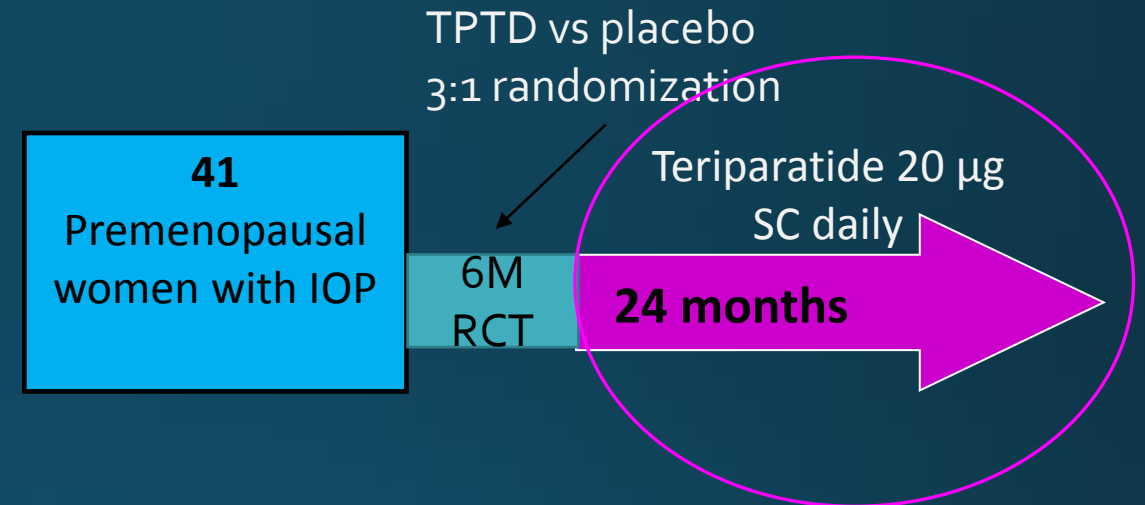
\*Document fused epiphyses in very young adults (< 25 years)

- Treatment plan post-TPTD is unclear

# Teriparatide for Premenopausal Idiopathic Osteoporosis (Osteoporosis with no known secondary cause)



- Pilot, open label study
- Investigator Initiated,
  - Funded by Eli Lilly
- Paired bone biopsy
  - BL and 18M



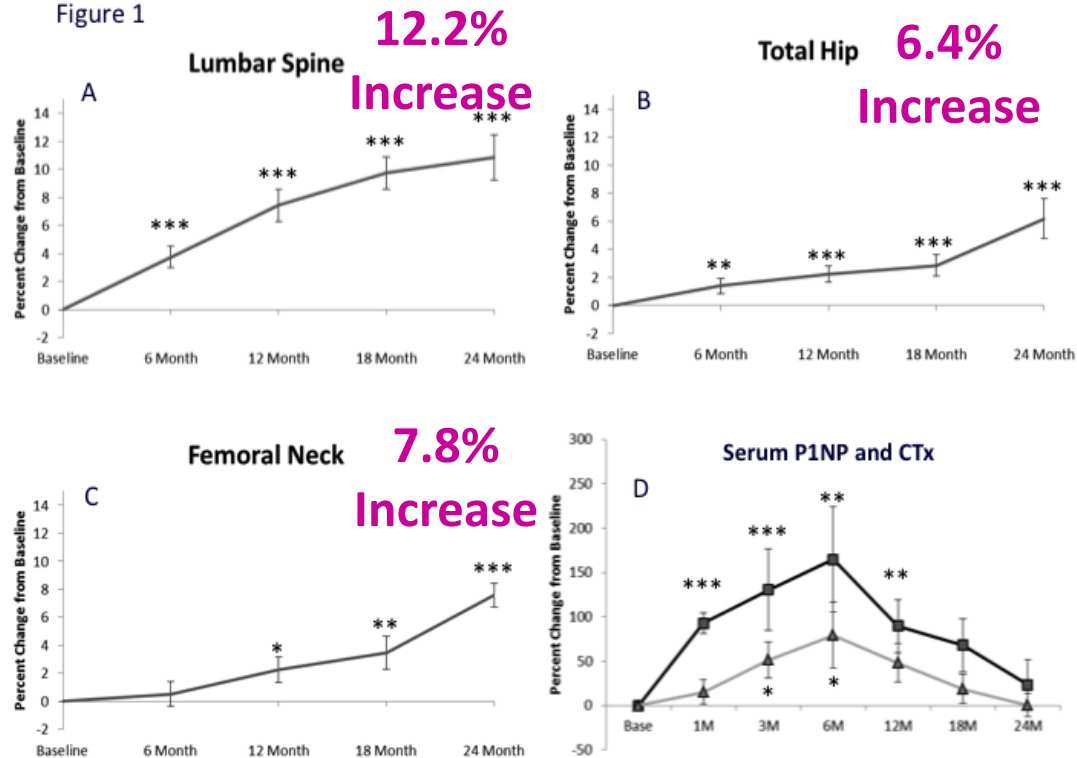
- RCT with switch-over
- FDA funded (OOPD)
- Single quad labeled bone biopsy at 3M

# Teriparatide for Premenopausal Idiopathic Osteoporosis

## % Change in BMD over 24 Months

### PILOT STUDY (n=21)

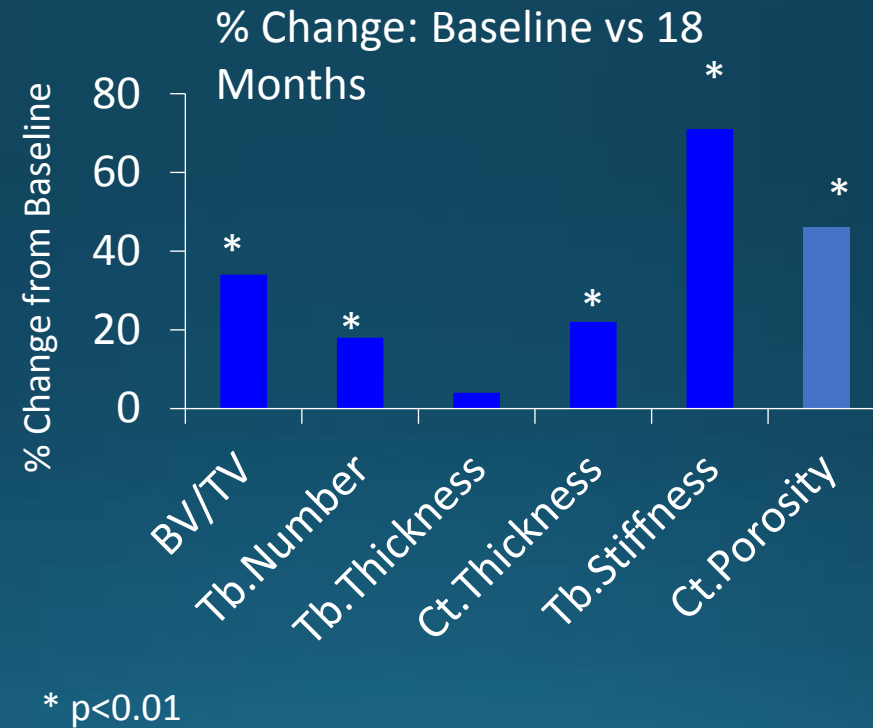
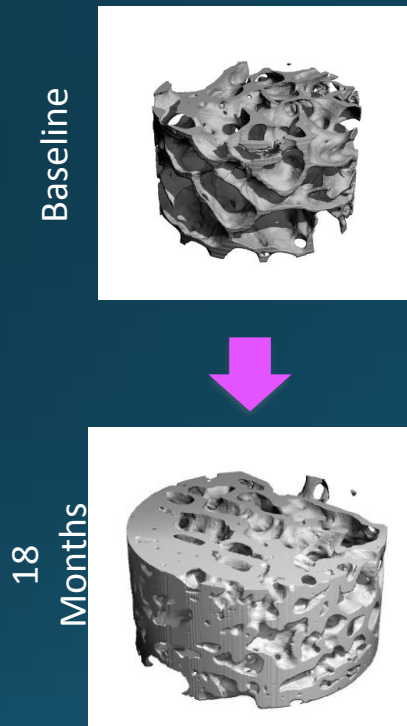
Figure 1



# PILOT STUDY (n=21)

## Teriparatide for Premenopausal IOP: Bone Structural Changes on Biopsies

### Case #1:



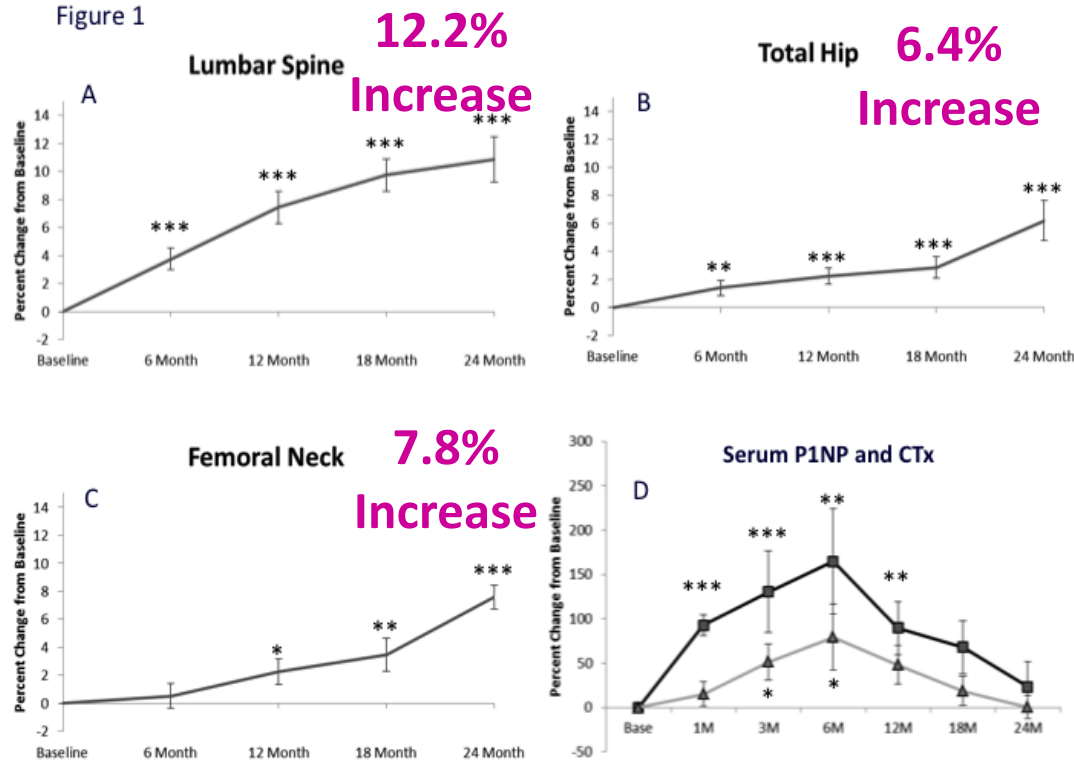
# Teriparatide for Premenopausal Idiopathic Osteoporosis

## % Change in BMD over 24 Months

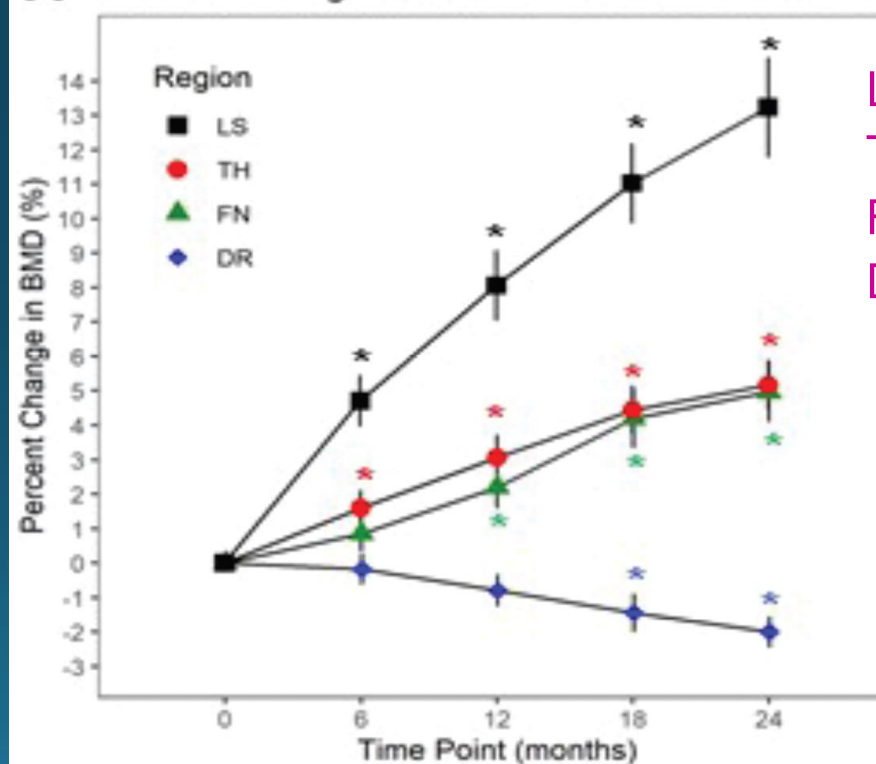
PILOT STUDY (n=21)

FDA STUDY (n=41)

Figure 1



A Percent Change in BMD +/- SE on Active TPTD



LS – 13% increase  
TH – 5% increase  
FN – 5% increase  
DR – 2% decrease

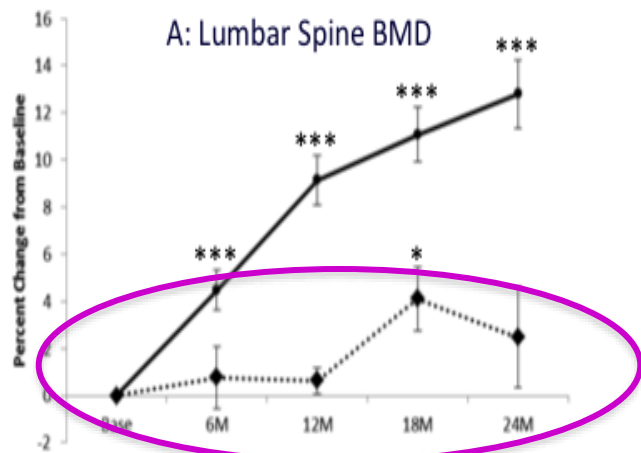


# Teriparatide for Premenopausal Idiopathic Osteoporosis

## VARIABLE RESPONSE

## PILOT STUDY (n=21)

Figure 3: Percent Change in BMD and Bone Turnover Markers After Teriparatide in Responders and Non-Responders



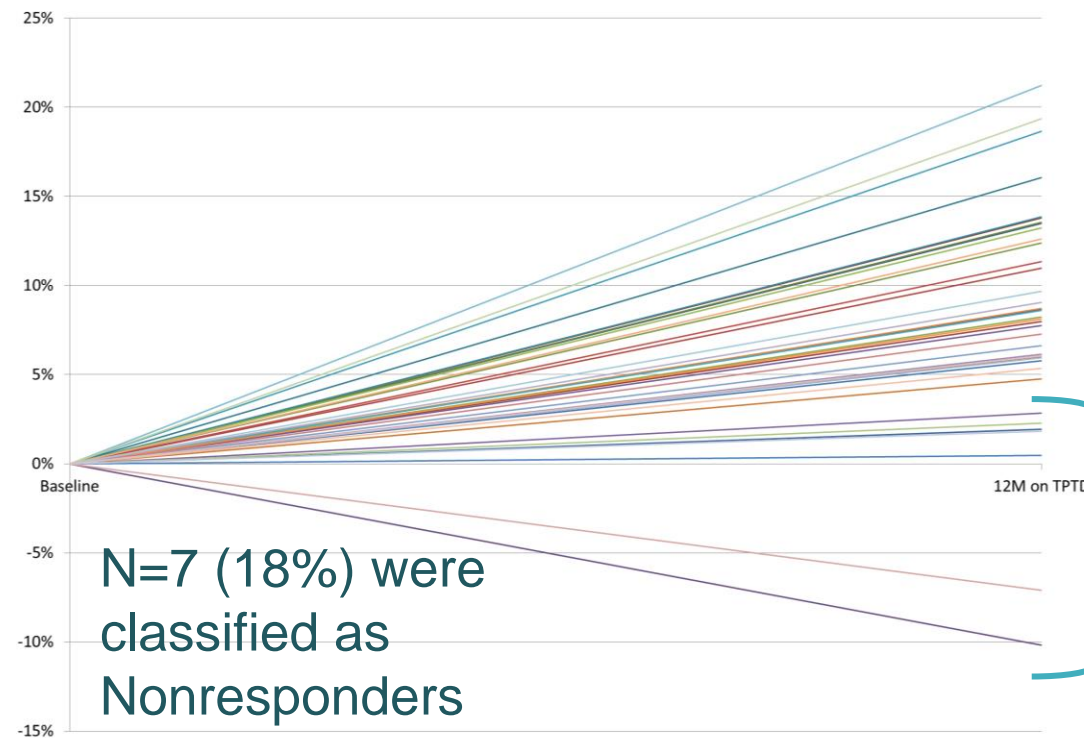
4 women were NonResponders: 19%

At baseline,

Bone formation rate and CTX were significantly lower

## FDA STUDY (n=41)

12M LS BMD %Change in Individual Subjects



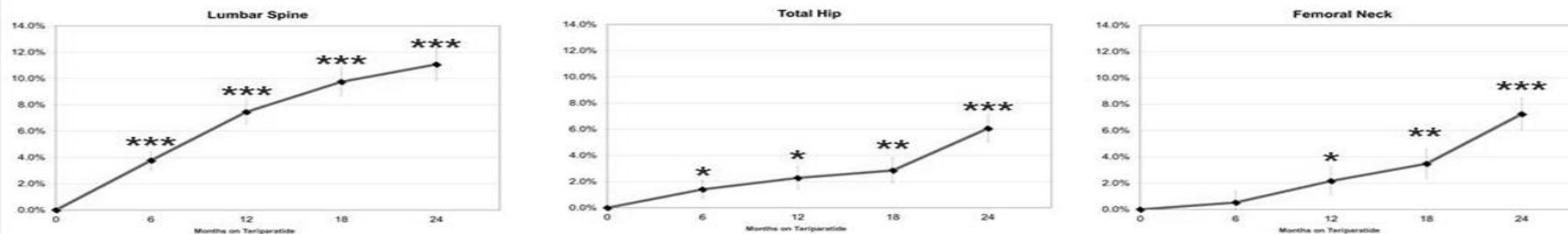
NonResponders:

Baseline bone formation rate 50-60% lower, but NS (p=0.1)

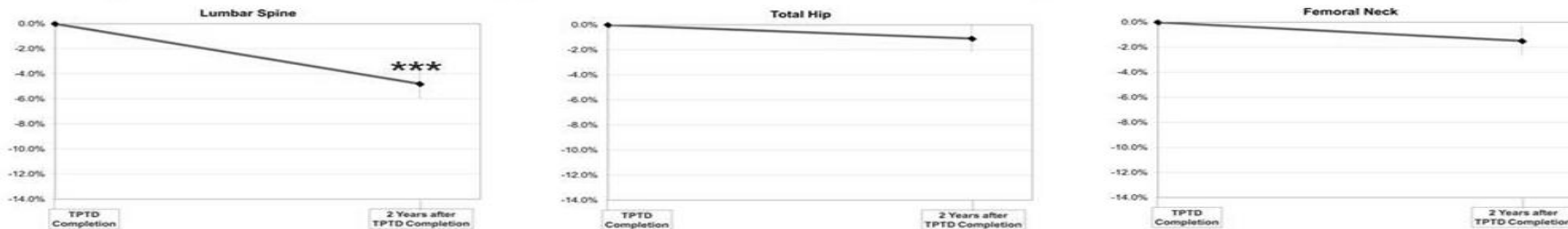
# Bone Density after TPTD discontinuation in IOP

- 15 women followed ~2 yrs after TPTD cessation
- Bone loss at LS, stable at TH and FN
- BMD loss group:
  - Older age ( $46 \pm 3$  vs  $38 \pm 7$ ;  $p=0.046$ )
  - More bone gain while on TPTD
  - Faster bone remodeling on Bx only

**Figure 1a: Change in BMD on teriparatide**

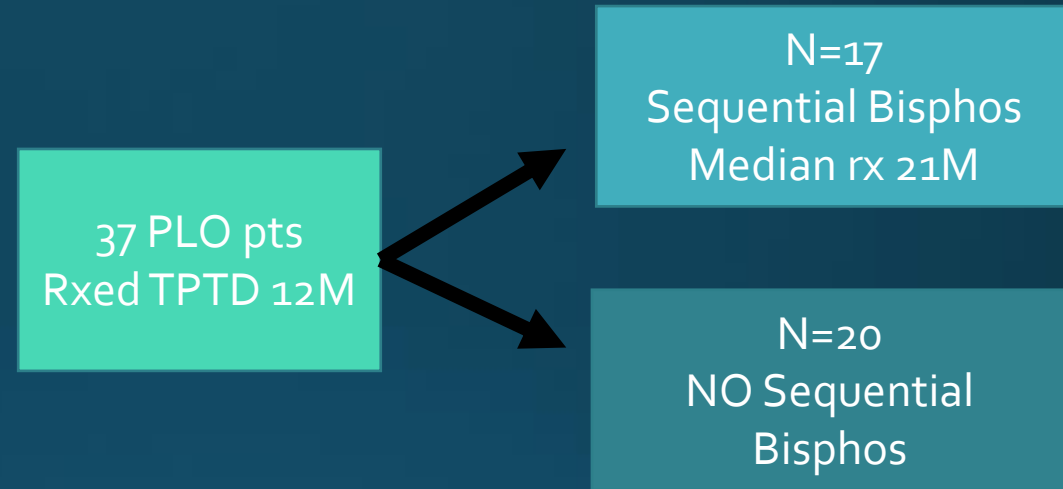
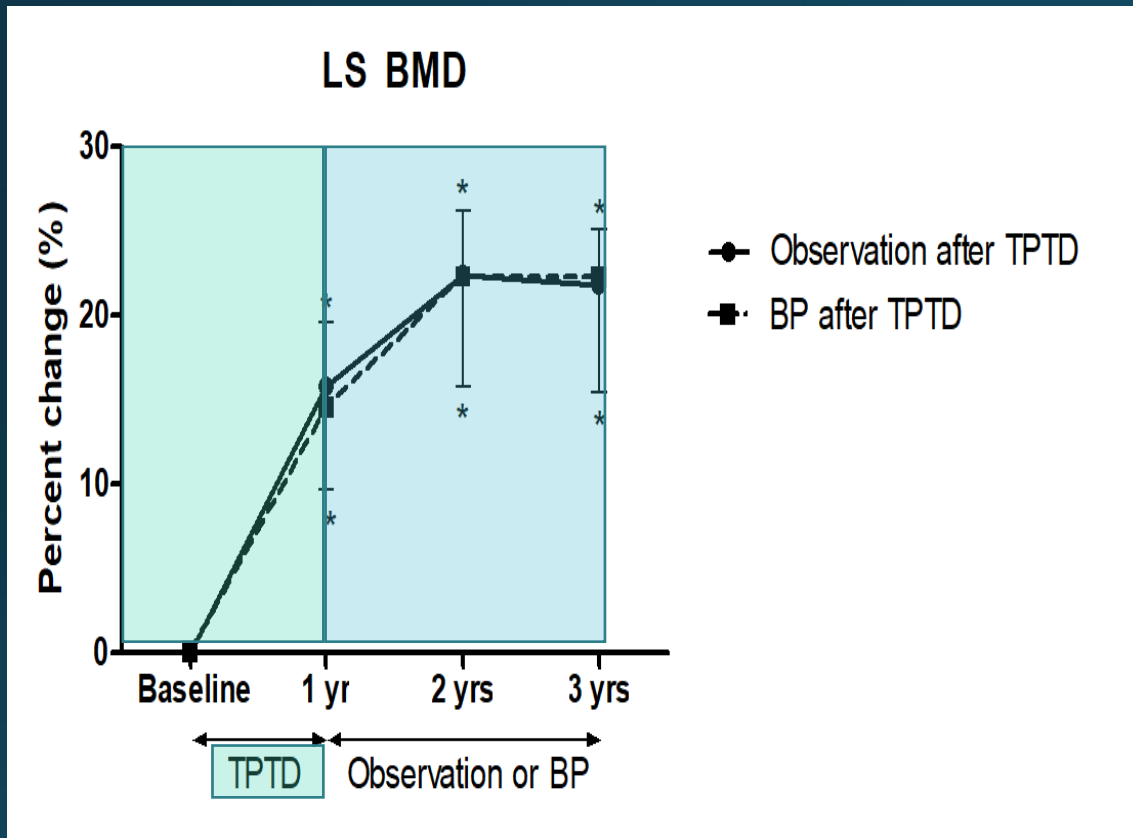


**Figure 1b: Change in BMD after teriparatide cessation**



# Bone Density after TPTD Discontinuation: Different Trajectory in PLO

BMD is maintained after teriparatide WITHOUT sequential bisphosphonate rx

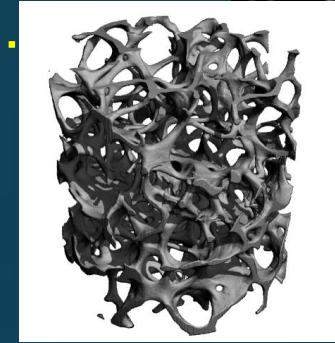


All had regular menstrual cycles  
Age, BMI, baseline BMD  
did not differ between the groups

# Future Goal: Optimize Therapy for IOP and other Premenopausal Osteoporosis

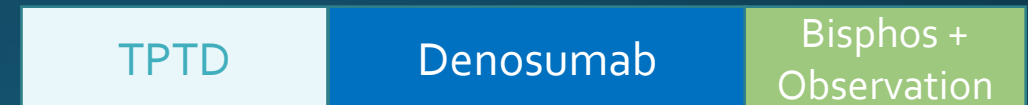
Bone-anabolic therapies target bone structural deficiencies, **BUT...**

- Response is very variable with 18-20% nonresponse rate
- Bone loss is documented after teriparatide (?except in PLO)



Ongoing extension studies to the FDA trial: **SEQUENTIAL THERAPY WITH TPTD**

- Denosumab after TPTD
- Bisphosphonate transition after denosumab



**NEW STUDY: Romosozumab/Denosumab Protocol**

Now recruiting premenopausal women with:

- Fracture(s)
  - No clear secondary cause
- \*Note: travel funding available



# Many Remaining Areas of Uncertainty

- How do we use BMD and BMD trajectory data in this population?  
Should unexplained declining BMD ever be treated?
- Which kinds of fractures represent true evidence of bone fragility?  
Spine and hip fractures  
Foot fractures?  
Stress fractures?
  - What sort of fracture history should lead to a recommendation for medical treatment?
- Which medication(s) should be used?
- How long should a course of treatment last in a premenopausal woman?









