

Zoledronic Acid Counteract Treatment-Related Bone Loss

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SAN ANTONIO, TX -- December 9, 2004 -- Zoledronic acid can help counteract the loss of bone mass associated with adjuvant therapy with hormone treatment and the luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone analog goserelin in premenopausal women with early-stage hormone receptor-positive breast cancers.

Michael Gnant, MD, professor of surgery, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, presented the findings here on December 8th on behalf of the Austrian Breast and Colorectal Cancer Study Group at the 27th Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium.

In the randomized phase 3 trial, 1315 women with Stage I and II breast cancer received goserelin and then were randomized to one of four treatment arms: tamoxifen alone, tamoxifen plus zoledronic acid, anastrozole alone, or anastrozole plus zoledronic acid.

Dr. Gnant reported on 401 patients who underwent bone mineral density measurements at baseline, 6 months, 1 year, and 3 years.

The 197 women who did not receive zoledronic acid had 14% bone loss after 3 years, he said. Bone loss was significantly more severe in the 94 patients who receiving goserelin plus anastrozole (17%) than in the 103 patients who received goserelin plus tamoxifen (11%). In contrast, the 204 patients who received zoledronic acid had stable bone mineral density with no treatment-induced bone loss ($P < .0001$), the study showed. No women in any arm have developed fractures to date, Dr. Gnant noted.

Bone loss was most pronounced in the first year of endocrine therapy, but kept decreasing, he said.

"Women who are on hormone therapy should undergo annual bone mineral density measurements," he said. "Those who lose 10% or more of their bone mineral density in the first year of therapy should be treated with a bisphosphonate."

AstraZeneca and Novartis helped support the trial.

[Presentation title: "Zoledronic Acid Effectively Counteracts Cancer Treatment Induced Bone Loss (CTIBL) in Premenopausal Breast Cancer Patients Receiving Adjuvant Endocrine Treatment With Goserelin Plus Anastrozole Versus Goserelin Plus Tamoxifen - Bone Density Subprotocol Results of a Randomized Multicenter Trial (ABCSG-12)." Abstract 6]