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OSTEOPOROSIS TREATMENT REDUCES FRACTURES ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS OF POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN

Montréal (25 June 2007)—In a subgroup analysis of the HORIZON Pivotal Fracture Trial, a treatment for osteoporosis, zoledronic acid (ZOL) 5 mg, was shown to be successful in reducing fractures in postmenopausal women of all ages. In addition, ZOL 5 mg was associated with significant reductions in fractures across geographic regions. Jonathan D. Adachi, MD, FRCPC, reported these findings today at the 17th Scientific Meeting of the International Bone & Mineral Society (IBMS).

The HORIZON Pivotal Fracture Trial (HORIZON-PFT), published in the May 3, 2007 issue of *The New England Journal*, examined whether once-yearly infusions of ZOL 5 mg were effective in reducing the incidence of fractures among women with postmenopausal osteoporosis. Zoledronic acid infusions given at intervals of up to one year produce effects on bone turnover and bone density as great as those achieved with daily oral dosing with bisphosphonates with proven efficacy against fractures, suggesting that an annual infusion of zoledronic acid might be an effective treatment for postmenopausal osteoporosis.

Dr. Adachi and his team performed a subgroup analysis of HORIZON-PFT to examine the effect of once-yearly infusions of ZOL 5 mg on vertebral, clinical and hip fracture rates by age group (younger than 70, 70-74, older than 75 years), and by geographic region (Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, North America/Oceania, Western Europe). A total of 7,736 women were randomly assigned to treatment with ZOL 5 mg or placebo.

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Results found that ZOL 5 mg significantly reduced the risk of vertebral, hip and all clinical fractures across all age groups. Findings suggested that ZOL 5 mg was more effective however in younger women.

Reduction in hip fracture was somewhat greater in patients older than 70 years.

ZOL 5 mg also was associated with considerable vertebral and clinical fracture reductions across geographic regions. However, risk reductions for hip fractures were not statistically significant due to the low number of hip fractures in each regional subset of patients. There was no evidence that the effect of ZOL 5 mg differed by region. In general, ZOL 5 mg was safe and well tolerated.

“Our findings were consistent with the overall trial results of HORIZON-PFT,” says Dr. Adachi. “This,” he adds, “further validates that ZOL 5 mg is an effective treatment for reducing fractures in post-menopausal women.”

For more information about Dr. Adachi’s study, please visit www.ibmsonline.org.

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The International Bone & Mineral Society (IBMS) is the first and the largest international network of researchers, clinicians, companies and societies dedicated to promoting the generation and dissemination of knowledge of basic biology and clinical science of the skeleton and mineral metabolism. To learn more about IBMS, visit www.ibmsonline.org.