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ANTI-RESORPTIVE THERAPY TESTED IN REAL-LIFE SETTING REDUCES RISK OF BONE FRACTURE IN WOMEN

Montréal (25 June 2007)—Results from a study of more than 6,000 Canadian women indicate that anti-resorptive agents reduce the risk of low-trauma fractures. This research provides new evidence that supports the applicability of clinical trial results to women seen in clinical practice. Suzanne Morin, MD, FRCP, FACP, reported these findings today at the 17th Scientific Meeting of the International Bone & Mineral Society (IBMS).

Anti-resorptive agents are a class of drugs known to slow down the gradual loss of bone and are the most frequently prescribed treatment for osteoporosis. Anti-resorptive agents include estrogen (hormone replacement therapy or HRT), bisphosphonates (alendronate, etidronate and risedronate), selective-estrogen receptor modulators (raloxifene) and calcitonin. Prior to this study, evidence from clinical trials has shown that treatment with anti-resorptive agents is associated with a reduction in the number of fractures.

Using data from the Canadian Multi-centre Osteoporosis Study (CaMos), Dr. Morin and her co-authors studied a randomly selected, population-based group of 6,008 women aged 50 and older for a period of seven years. Participants were given a standardized interview to address demographics and medical history and were measured for bone mineral density (BMD) at the start of the study. Each year the women were asked to report current use of anti-resorptive agents as well as any incidence of fracture. The analysis did not include fractures of the head, hands, feet or vertebrae.

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Results indicated that anti-resorptive therapy was associated with a 32 percent reduced risk of non-vertebral osteoporosis-related fracture in the group of women. Risk reduction was higher for women with major risk factors for fractures, including prior osteoporotic fractures and a BMD score equal to or less than 2.5, than for those without these risk factors.

“The results support the data from clinical trials which have demonstrated that anti-resorptive agents are effective in reducing fractures in women with osteoporosis,” says Dr. Morin. “Such studies are important because it enables us to evaluate if results obtained in clinical trials can be applied to real- life clinical practice,” adds Morin.

For more information about Dr. Morin’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.