Annual Rheumatology & Therapeutics Review for Organizations & Societies Biochemical Markers of Bone Turnover: Definitions and Recommendations for Monitoring Therapy



Learning Objectives for Biochemical Markers of Bone Turnover

- To understand the pathophysiology of the bone remodeling process
- To understand the clinical diseases that generate different bone turnover markers
- To understand how therapy for osteoporosis can alter biochemical markers of bone turnover
- To understand how to incorporate bone turnover markers into clinical practice of osteoporosis.

The Lifecycle of Bone



Adapted from: Baron R. Primer on the Metabolic Bone Diseases and Disorders of Mineral Metabolism. 5th ed. 2003:1-8; Bringhurst FR, et al.

Bone Cell Lineages



Biochemical Markers of Bone Metabolism (Monitors of Bone Loss)



Rapid Change

BTMs Can Respond More Rapidly Than BMD

Placebo (500mg Ca/day) Alendronate (10mg/day + 500mg Ca/day)

Percentage Change uNTX/Cr¹



Percentage Change LSBMD²



Braga de Castro Machado et al JBMR 1999;14:602-8 Liberman et al NEJM 1995:333;1437-43

Resorption Markers Change More Rapidly Than Formation Markers



Predictor of Increased Fracture Risk In Untreated Subjects Population Studies: Elevated Biomarkers Increase Fracture Risk in Untreated Patients A Risk Factor Not Captured in FRAX*

BMD and Markers Predict Hip Fracture the Epidos Study

For Each 2SD of CTX Above T-score OR for Fracture \uparrow 2X



Bone Turnover Markers Predict a Higher Risk for Fractures 9 years Later in Elderly (75 yrs +) Untreated Women



Fracture number : 363 fractures including 116 hip fractures

Predictor of Increased Fracture Risk In Treated Patients (Groups)

OP Therapies: Greater Decrease in Bone Resorption Predicts Greater Reduction in Non-spine Fracture Risk



RR= Relative risk Hochberg MC et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2002;87:1586–1592

Bone Marker Reduction Correlates to Fracture Risk Reduction

- CTX reduction after 3-6 months correlates to fracture risk reduction.
- When 60% reduction is achieved, there is no greater reduction in fracture risk.



0-3 yr Vertebral Fracture Incidence

The Association of Marker Changes (ALP and P1NP) after 1 Year and Fracture Risk Reduction with Alendronate Treatment for 3 years.

Cutpoint (% of women)	Spine fracture (N=118) OR (95% CI)*	Non-spine fracture (N=225) RH (95% CI)*
>15% reduction bone ALP	0.63 (0.42,0.95)	0.79 (0.58,1.08)
>30% reduction bone ALP	0.90 (0.62,1.33)	0.72 (0.55,0.92)
>50% reduction bone ALP	0.52 (0.29,0.94)	0.84 (0.60,1.19)
>30% reduction in P1NP	0.45 (0.30,0.70)	1.02 (0.70,1.49)
>50% reduction in P1NP	0.66 (0.49,0.99)	0.86 (0.65,1.15)
>70% reduction in P1NP	0.79 (0.50,1.25)	0.63 (0.46,0.88)

*OR or RH for fracture among alendronate-treated women with specified 1-year reduction in marker compared with women without specified reduction in marker

Short-term Changes in Bone Turnover Markers and Bone Mineral Density Response to PTH in PMOP

Baseline and Follow-up BTM Among 119 Subjects

Variable	0 mth	1 mth	3 mth	1 yr
P1NP (bg/mL)	58.0 ± 35	111.9±77	171.6±147.5	180.5 ± 143
Bone ALP	18.1 ±8	23.2±13.3	29.0±21.1	32.2± 19.6 (ng/mL)
sCTX	392 ±203	400 ± 252	722 ± 550	882 ± 559 (pg/mL)

Anabolic Data

Changes in P1NP and BALP with Teriparatide



Blumsohn A, et al. Osteoporos Int 2011;22:1935-1946.

Bone Turnover Markers

Bone turnover markers…

- Predict bone loss and fracture risk in untreated patients
- With treatment...
 - Change sooner than BMD
 - Identify more "responders" than BMD
 - Explain a greater proportion of fracture reduction than change in BMD
- Can be useful in monitoring the response to treatment

Drug Holidays

Change in Urinary ntx: Creatinine Ratio From Flex Baseline to Flex Month 60 in Women Receiving Alendronate or Placebo



Effect of Denosumab on Serum CTX and BSAP – Discontinued Treatment



FDA NEJM Perspective

- Recommend treatment with bisphosphonates for 3-5 years and consider discontinuation in "lower risk" patients but consider continuation in "higher risk" patients (prior fracture, older, BMD criteria for osteoporosis).
- Weak and inconclusive recommendations on what to do when discontinuation is begun.

Bisphosphonate (BP) Drug Holidays: A Perspective from a Clinician

- 1. Most patients don't stay on therapy very long.
- In USA, patients stop on their own; Docs are afraid to treat.
- The legal threat is there if a patient fractures on or off a bisphosphonate.
- The "skeletal load" of BP may differ greatly from patient to patient on the same BP or among different BPs.
- If BPs are stopped, serial BMD and BTM are the only clinical tools we have to "monitor."

How I Use Markers

- 1. In untreated patients with high baseline valuesthink beyond PMO "rapid losers."
- 2. In untreated patients high values may "tip the scale" in those with borderline risk.
- In treated patients-values above clinical trial treatment group suggests poor compliance, poor absorption or poor bone biological effect
- 4. In treated patients a change (decline with antiresorptive or increase with anabolic) from baseline is encouraging (me and the patient)
- **5.** Holiday or retirement?