■ **Denosumab* is superior to weekly alendronic acid for bone mineral density (BMD) gains in postmenopausal women with low bone mass.** In a phase III study, 504 such women (T-scores of ≤ –2.0 and ≥ –4.0 at the lumbar spine or total hip) being treated with alendronic acid 70mg each week were randomised to either continue the alendronic acid or receive SC denosumab 60mg twice yearly. After 12 months, significantly greater gains in BMD were achieved with denosumab than with the ongoing weekly alendronic acid at the total hip (primary endpoint; approximately 80% greater), lumbar spine, femoral neck, distal radius and hip trochanter. The most common adverse events in both treatment arms were back pain, nasal pharyngitis and arthralgia, and rates of neoplasm and infection were well balanced between the groups.

* Amgen; phase III for osteoporosis and postmenopausal osteoporosis in the US and Canada, and phase III for bone cancer in the US, the EU, Canada and Japan.

Amgen. Denosumab Osteoporosis Study Meets Primary and All Secondary Bone Mineral Density Endpoints in Alendronate (FOSAMAX(R)) Transition Study. Media Release : 20 May 2008. Available from: URL: http://www.amgen.com

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