

Alendronic acid increases risk of atrial fibrillation in women

Alendronic acid is associated with an increased risk of incident atrial fibrillation in women, according to results from a case-control study. These findings are in contrast to those from a previous study, which reported no relationship between bisphosphonate use and atrial fibrillation.*

To examine whether alendronic acid use was associated with risk of incident atrial fibrillation in women, researchers analysed data from the population-based Group Health Atrial Fibrillation Study. The population for analysis consisted of 719 atrial fibrillation case patients and 966 control patients.

A significantly higher proportion of atrial fibrillation case patients had ever used alendronic acid, compared with control patients (6.5% vs 4.1%; $p = 0.03$). After adjustment for matching variables, a diagnosis of osteoporosis, and cardiovascular disease, ever use of alendronic acid was associated with an increased risk of incident atrial fibrillation, compared with never use of any bisphosphonate (odds ratio 1.86; 95% CI 1.09, 3.15). The researchers estimated that, in this population, 3.0% of incident atrial fibrillation might be explained by use of alendronic acid.

* see Inpharma 1630/1631 p17; 801034891

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