■ **Paediatric patients at risk for glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis benefit from treatment with alendronic acid,** according to the results of a multicentre, randomised trial presented at the joint annual meeting of the American College of Rheumatology and the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals. In this trial, 23 such patients (aged 8–18 years) were treated with alendronic acid 35 mg/week or 70 mg/week (n = 12), or placebo, for 18 months. At study end, alendronic acid recipients demonstrated significantly greater improvements in AP spine bone mineral density (BMD) Z scores than placebo recipients. Furthermore, AP spine BMD and Bone Mineral Apparent Density were both improved to a significantly greater extent with alendronic acid than with placebo (14.3% vs 7.8% and 11.3% vs 5.6%, respectively).

Von Scheven E, et al. Pediatric randomized placebo-controlled trial of alendronate for glucocorticoid-associated osteoporosis. 71st Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology and the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals: Late Breaker Abstracts : 84 abstr. L18, 6 Nov 2007 801088409