

■ **Patients in the US are being advised to delay starting treatment with Roche's ibandronic acid [Boniva]**, reports *Marketletter: Pharma News Daily*. Public Citizen, a consumer advocacy organisation, recommends that patients wait 7 years before starting treatment with any newly approved drug, and the latest posting on the group's web site* suggests that patients wait until 2010 to start taking Boniva. The group reasons that the drug, having been on the market for only 3 years, is a relatively new treatment for osteoporosis and that there is no evidence to support its therapeutic benefits over older products. According to Public Citizen, many new drugs are removed from the market within 7 years of their release because of dangers to patients; the group suggests that such risks can be minimised by making use of older, safer drugs.

* WorstPills.org

US "patients should wait until 2010 before taking Boniva," says Public Citizen. *Marketletter: Pharma News Daily* : [1 page], 16 Oct 2006. Available from: URL: <http://www.marketletter.com> 800996999