■ **The incidence of adverse events (AEs) appears to be higher with IV zoledronic acid than with oral ibandronic acid,** in patients with advanced breast cancer and ≤ 1 osteolytic or mixed bone lesion, according to a randomised, 12-week study presently recently at the13th European Cancer Conference held in Paris, France. Patients received ibandronic acid 50 mg/day (n = 137), or zoledronic acid 4mg, via a 15 minute infusion, every 4 weeks (137). Both drugs were generally well tolerated, but, there were more AEs with zoledronic acid than with ibandronic acid (76% vs 65% of patients), particularly during the first 3 days (47% vs 8%); these were mostly acute-phase AEs that were possibly or probably treatment-related, and included fever, muscle pain, chills, flu-like symptoms and arthralgia. Zoledronic acid recipients had more bone pain (21% vs 12%), serious AEs (8.0% vs 5.8%) and withdrawals (5.1% vs 2.9%), than ibandronic acid recipients, but, less GI AEs (18% vs 23%).

Body J-J, et al. Safety comparison of oral ibandronate and intravenous zoledronic acid in metastatic breast cancer patients: phase III data. EJC Supplements 3: 114 (plus poster) abstr. 408, No. 2, Oct 2005 800986888