

■ **Intermittent ibandronic acid [Boniva] may reduce the incidence of new vertebral fractures in women with postmenopausal osteoporosis**, according to results from the BONE* study that were published in the August issue of the *Journal of Bone Mineral Research*.** 2946 women aged 55–80 years with postmenopausal osteoporosis were randomised to receive oral ibandronic acid 2.5 mg/day, or 20mg every other day for 12 doses at the start of each 3 month interval, or placebo, for 3 years. Both regimens significantly reduced the risk of new vertebral fractures, relative to placebo; the cumulative incidences were 4.7% and 4.9% in the daily and intermittent ibandronic acid groups, respectively, and 9.6% in the placebo group. After 3 years, there were significant increases in bone mineral density in the lumbar spine and hip in the groups that received daily and intermittent ibandronic acid, compared with the placebo group (6.5% and 5.7% vs 1.3%, and 3.4% and 2.9% vs –0.7%, respectively).

* Oral Ibandronate Osteoporosis Vertebral Fracture Trial in North America and Europe

** see also Inpharma 1411: 14–15, 1 Nov 2003; 800969146

Roche, et al. New Publication Reports Boniva(TM) Significantly Reduced Vertebral Fractures. Media Release : 29 Jul 2004. Available from: URL: <http://www.rocheusa.com> 809037680