Ibandronic acid effective in bone metastases

Ibandronic acid 6mg was effective in preventing new skeletal complications and was well tolerated in patients with breast cancer and associated bone metastases in a double-blind, multicentre European study.*

In the study, 466 patients were randomised to treatment with IV ibandronic acid 2mg (bolus injection), 6mg (infusion) or placebo at 3- to 4-weekly intervals for 60–96 weeks (maximum 24 treatments).

The skeletal morbidity period rate** was reduced by 20% with ibandronic acid 6mg ($p = 0.004$), and by 11% with ibandronic acid 2mg ($p = 0.152$), compared with placebo. Ibandronic acid 6mg was also associated with a reduced mean number of new bone events per patient, median time to the first new bone event, and bone pain.

The researchers noted that the patients in the study were heterogeneous with regards to lesion size, presence of other metastases and modes of treatment, reflecting the patient population for whom bisphosphonates are indicated in clinical practice.

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** the number of 12-week periods with new skeletal complications (bone events) divided by the total observation time in 12-week periods, weighted by the time spent on study

Body J-J, et al. Intravenous ibandronate reduces the incidence of skeletal complications in patients with breast cancer and bone metastases. Annals of Oncology 14: 1399-1405, No. 9, Sep 2003 800955318