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Bone Changes During Spaceflight: How do we assess fracture probability in astronauts? Navy and WSU Aerospace Medicine

Jean D. Sibonga, Ph.D. Lead, Bone Discipline Human Research Program [HRP] Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX February 18, 2015

At the end of this lecture, you should understand:

- The view of DXA BMD as a surrogate for fracture risk in terrestrial medicine. Why DXA is not a good research technology to understand fracture risk in astronauts.
- Flight data describing the unique effects of spaceflight on skeletal sites at risk for age-related osteoporosis on Earth.
- Bold research approaches to assessing the "biomechanical competence of bone" in the context of NASA's constraints.

BONE BIOLOGY

Getting on the same page.

TWO TYPES OF BONE

Cancellous "Spongy" Bone/Trabecular Bone

PROXIMAL FEMUR

Trochanter 50% BMD

Femoral Neck 25% BMD



VERTEBRAL BODY – 66% BMD



Cortical Bone/ "Compact Bone"

Sources: L. Mosekilde; SL Bonnick; P Crompton

Distribution of bone types in skeleton and turnover rates on earth

Entire skeleton turns-over 10%/year: 3% cortex but 25% of cancellous bone

Cancellous Bone 20% of total skeleton (vertebrae, ribs, ends of long bones) **Contains 80% of bone surfaces**



BONE SURFACES – Sites of bone formation & removal – not random Trabecular Surface



Remodeling at the level of a single "Bone Remodeling Unit"

HIGHLY-REGULATED ACTIONS OF BONE CELLS on BONE TURNOVER.



TYPES OF BONE CELLS: mediators of bone resorption, bone formation, mechanical sensing



Characterizing Bone Changes* in Space



SPA=Single Photon Absorptiometry DXA=Dual-energy X-ray Absorptiometry QCT=Quantitative Computed Tomography pQCT = peripheral QCT BTO=biochemical markers of bone turnover

*Two functions of skeleton

Skylab-Bone Mineral Density of Calcaneus (vs. wrist)



Skylab-Urinary Calcium Excretion



Functions of the Skeleton*

- Internal support for the body
- Attachment for muscles / tendons for motion
- Protects vital organs
- Encloses blood-forming elements in marrow
- Mobilized store for Calcium (Ca²⁺) homeostasis

*What potential risks to human health & performance? During and after a mission.

Four identified "Bone" health risks for exploration missions.

1. Early Onset Osteoporosis (fragility fractures)

2. Bone Fracture (trauma fractures)

3. Formation of Renal Stones

4. Intervertebral Disc Injury (or Damage)

Four Identified "Bone" health risks for exploration missions.

Early Onset Osteoporosis

Bone Fracture

3. Formation of Renal Stones

4. Intervertebral Disc Injury (or Damage)

Journal of Bone & Mineral June 28(6):1243-1255, 2013

"Bone Summit I – 2010"

JBMR



Skeletal Health in Long-Duration Astronauts: Nature, Assessment, and Management Recommendations from the NASA Bone Summit

Eric S Orwoll,¹ Robert A Adler,² Shreyasee Amin,³ Neil Binkley,⁴ E Michael Lewiecki,⁵ Steven M Petak,⁶ Sue A Shapses,⁷ Mehrsheed Sinaki,⁸ Nelson B Watts,⁹ and Jean D Sibonga¹⁰

Combined Medical and Research Tests:

Intervention Requirement?, Clinical Triggers?, Surveillance Recommendations

- What additional measure(s) do we need to monitor?
- 2. How frequently? For how long?
- How should Med Ops <u>use</u> research data in its clinical practice?
- 4. Need specific clinical practice guidelines.

BONE SUMMIT 2010 and 2013

Bone Research @ NASA



Take Home Messages from Bone Summit (2010)

- 1. Bone is a complicated tissue.
- 2. NASA has constraints: low subject #'s; slow data acquisition.
- 3. Astronauts are understudied group.
- 4. Spaceflight effects on bone are unique.
- 5. Clinically-accepted tests have limitations.
- NASA's medical standards for bone health (based upon terrestrial guidelines) are not applicable to long-duration astronauts.
- 7. Recommended exploring the transition of research approaches to clinical arena.

Risk: Different types of fractures



"Osteoporotic/Fragility Fractures" – low to atraumatic Fractures due to Osteoporosis (Causality - SKELETAL CONDITION) <image>

Load > Bone Strength = FRACTURE (Causality – BIOMECHANICS)

You don't have to be **OLD**.

You don't have to have OSTEOPOROSIS.

Does spaceflight result in irreversible changes to bone that combine with age-related losses?



Riggs BL, Melton LJ: Adapted from Involutional osteoporosis Oxford Textbook of Geriatric Medicine ADAPTED SLIDE COURTESY OF Dr. S. AMIN, Mayo Clinic

Increased risk in astronauts? Limited time to count incidence of fractures.



NA\$A measures Bone Mineral Density [BMD] by DXA as a surrogate for fracture just as clinical world. -T-scores (Not BMD change). circa 2000



"Osteoporosis is a skeletal disorder characterized by compromised bone strength predisposing to an increased risk of fracture. Bone strength reflects the integration of two main features: bone density and bone quality."

JAMA. 2001



Disconnects evident In population studies.

FRACTURE CASES

NON FRACTURES

BONE STRENGTH IS INFLUENCED BY ADDITIONAL FACTORS THAT ARE NOT MEASURED BY DXA AREAL BMD.

Widely-applied surrogate for fracture

Diagnostic Guidelines Not Meaningful for Astronauts

for peri- and postmenopausal women and men > 50 years. BMD T-Score Values* Expeditions 1-25 (n=33) *Comparison to Population Normals



Age is important risk factor for bone loss but the utility for < 50 years not clearly evident .*



Kanis et al JBMR 9(8):1137, 1994

* The use of DXA BMD for surveillance of active astronauts is a unique application.

Risk for osteoporotic fractures is lower at younger ages.

Given the probability of fracture drives the requirement for interventions, DXA testing for the younger aged is not considered necessary.



Slide Courtesy of S. Petak, MD.

Age

WHAT COULD BE MEASURED TO DEFINE A RARE RISK IN YOUNGER PERSONS?

Uncertainty exists. Are the long-duration astronauts at risk?

History of Bone Imaging in Space

Gemini			Space Shuttle		
Mercur	У	Apollo	Skylab		ISS
1961-63	1965-66	1968-72	1973-74		2000-present
	 X-ray densitometry 	 SPA heel and wrist 	 SPA heel and wrist 		DXA QCT <i>HR3DpQCT</i> (ESA)
			Soyuz/Salyut	Mir	
The state			1974-85	1 974-85	
			• SPA	• DXA whole	body
			• DPA	• CT of lumb BMD	ar spine

Slide courtesy of S. Amin, adapted from Dr. Jean Sibonga, NASA JSC

Dual-energy X-ray Absorptiometry-DXA



Measurement of bone mineral in 2-d **projection** of bone $[BMD_a]$ g/cm²

•Improved precision; Low radiation; Shorter scan times; BMD measures over multiple skeletal sites

• Validated in numerous population studies for fracture prediction

• Long established, widely-applied surrogate for fracture outcome – become NASA standards, but T-scores give only Relative Risks

DXA: BMD losses are site-specific and

rapid vs. 0.5 - 1.0 % BMD loss/year in the aged

		Whole Body		
Areal BMD g/cm2	%/Month Change <u>+</u> SD	0.3% / month		
Lumbar Spine	-1.06 <u>+</u> 0.63*			
Femoral Neck	-1.15 <u>+</u> 0.84*	Lumbar Spine		
Trochanter	-1.56 <u>+</u> 0.99*	1% / month		
Total Body	-0.35 <u>+</u> 0.25*			
Pelvis	-1.35 <u>+</u> 0.54*			
Arm	-0.04 <u>+</u> 0.88	Hip 1.5% / month		
Leg	-0.34 <u>+</u> 0.33*			
*p<0.01, n=16-18				

Effects of exercise regimens described using DXA BMD

15 Note: No population data % BMD loss = Fracture Outcome 10 % Change from Pre Flight 5 Mir ISS IRED 0 A ISS ARED Bisphos + ARED -5 - Means -10 -15 -20 -25 Lumbar Spine Femoral Neck Trochanter **Total Hip** Pelvis

% Change in DXA BMD after Long-Duration Mir and ISS Missions

Mir n=35; ISS IRED n=24; ISS ARED n=11; Bisphos + ARED n=7

1217

⁶ Updated data since 2010 Bone Summit

A Limitation: DXA Cannot distinguish changes in bone geometry- a contributor to bone strength.



Mary Bouxsein, Ph.D. Bone Geometry and Skeletal Fragility, May 2005

Exercise changes <u>geometry</u> of whole bone (adult skeleton)- not detected by DXA.

- Haapasalo H, Sievanan H, Kannus P, Heinonen A, Oja P, Vuori I. 1996
 <u>Dimensions and estimated mechanical characteristics of the humerus after</u> <u>long-term tennis loading</u>. J Bone Miner Res. 11:864-872.
- Adami S, Gatto D, Braga V, Bianchini D, Rossini M. 1999 <u>Site-specific effects of strength training on bone structure and geometry of ultradistal radius in postmenopausal women.</u> J Bone Miner Res. 14(1):120-124.
- Haapasalo H, Kontulainen S, Sievanen H, Kannus P, Jarvinen M, Vuori I. 2000 <u>Exercise-induced bone gain is due to enlargement in bone size without a</u> <u>change in volumetric bone density: a peripheral quantitative computed</u> <u>tomography study of the upper arms of male tennis players</u>. Bone 17(3):351-357.
- Vainionpaa A, Korpelainan R, Sievanen H, Vihriaia E, Leppaluoto J, Jamasa T. 2007 <u>Effect of impact exercise and its intensity on bone geometry at weight-bearing</u> <u>tibia and femur</u>. Bone 40(3):604-611.
- 5. Hind K, Gannon L, Whatley, Cooke C, Truscott J. 2011 <u>Bone cross-sectional</u> <u>geometry in male runners, gymnasts, swimmers and non-athletic controls: a</u> <u>hip-structural analysis study</u>. Eur J Appl Physiol . e pub May 24

The *location* of formed bone makes a difference.

	Baseline	Periosteal Apposition	Endosteal Apposition
	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
Periosteal Diameter	100%	110%	100 %
Endosteal Diameter	100%	100%	90 %
Compressive Strength	100%	148%	125 %
Bending Strength	100 %	168 %	116 %

Densitometry & Reported Measurement



DXA reports areal BMD (aBMD)



g/cm² averaged for cortical + trabecular bone



QCT quantifies volumetric BMD



g/cm3 for separate cortical & trabecular bone

Research: QCT detects different rate of vBMD loss in separate bone compartments of hip. (n=16 ISS volunteers)



Index DXA	%/Month Change <u>+</u> SD	Index QCT	%/Month Change <u>+</u> SD
aBMD Lumbar Spine	1.06 <u>+</u> 0.63*	Integral vBMD Lumbar Spine	0.9 <u>+</u> 0.5
		Trabecular vBMD Lumbar Spine	0.7 <u>+</u> 0.6
aBMD Femoral Neck	1.15 <u>+</u> 0.84*	Integral vBMD Femoral Neck	1.2 <u>+</u> 0.7
		Trabecular vBMD Femoral Neck	2.7 <u>+</u> 1.9
aBMD Trochanter	1.56 <u>+</u> 0.99*	Integral vBMD Trochanter	1.5+0.9
*p<0.01, n=16-18		Trabecular vBMD Trochanter	2.2+0.9

LeBlanc, J Musculoskelet Neuronal Interact. 2000 ; Lang , J Bone Miner Res, 2004;
QCT Postflight – Changes in Femoral Neck structure detected 12 months after return



P < 0.05 with respect to preflight*, postflight*

Slide adapted from T. Lang., JBMR 2006.

Two Functions of the Skeleton- increasing understanding by biochemistry

CELLULAR BASIS OF IMBALANCE IN SKELETAL REMODELING

Bone Bone **Formation** Resorption Mineral (\bullet,\bullet) 0000**Osteoblasts** Reservoir (γ,γ) Structural Framework **Resorption Biochemical Markers** BGP PINP **Formation Biochemical Markers** 10.-03 Osteoclasts

Serum and urinary biomarkers are by-products of

bone turnover and bone cell activity.



Bone breakdown is increased, formation is <u>uncoupled</u> from resorption, and bone gain and loss are unbalanced*

Reflects changes in <u>bone cells</u> but not <u>where</u> bone mass is lost.



(Smith et al, JBMR 2005); adapted by Sibonga

* Could lead to net bone loss in skeleton.

HIGHLY-REGULATED ACTIONS OF BONE CELLS on BONE TURNOVER.

Under-filling, over-filling, balanced filling of the bone remodeling unit [BRU] Can impact overall structural strength of whole bone (skeletal region).



Remodeling of bone at the level of a single "BRU"

Some insight gained by comparison to Earth-based disorders of increased bone resorption.









Representative manifestation on bone microarchitecture. Clinical test not currently available for hip/spine.



(Mosekilde, 2000; Seeman, 2002; Silva, 1997; Kleerekoper, 1985)

Path to Risk Reduction

HOW CAN RESEARCH DATA BE USED FOR CLINICAL CARE IN THE ABSENCE OF FRACTURE EVIDENCE?

DXA BMD increases in Postflight – but not sufficient to assess recovery of *bone strength*.





Femoral neck



DXA & QCT Spine in 8 ISS astronauts : Expanding our Understanding of Recovery After Spaceflight



QCT Extension Study (n=8) Postflight Trabecular BMD in hip. Carpenter, D et al. Acta Astronautica, 2010.

DXA & QCT Femoral Neck

Femoral NecktBMD

Femoral Neck DXA aBMD 1.05 1.05 1 0.95 **Normalized BMD Normalized BMD** 1 0.9 0.85 0.95 0.8 0.75 0.7 0.9 0.65 0.6 0.85 + 300 900 1200 1500 600 0 1800 1200 300 600 900 1500 1800 0 **Days After Landing Days After Landing**

QCT Extension Study (n=8) Postflight Trabecular BMD in hip. Carpenter, D et al. Acta Astronautica, 2010.

Clinical Evidence: QCT measures are independent predictors of hip fracture to supplement aBMD.

JOURNAL OF BONE AND MINERAL RESEARCH Volume 23, Number 8, 2008 Published online on March 17, 2008; doi: 10.1359/JBMR.080316 © 2008 American Society for Bone and Mineral Research

Proximal Femoral Structure and the Prediction of Hip Fracture in Men: A Large Prospective Study Using QCT*

Dennis M Black,¹ Mary L Bouxsein,² Lynn M Marshall,³ Steven R Cummings,⁴ Thomas F Lang,⁵ Jane A Cauley,⁶ Kristine E Ensrud,⁷ Carrie M Nielson³ and Eric S Orwoll³ for the Osteoporotic Fractures in Men (MrOS) Research Group

Journal of Bone and Mineral Research
 Volume 26, Issue 4, Article first published online: 23 MAR 2011
 Abstract | Full Article (HTML) | References | Supporting Information
 Cited By

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In Vivo Discrimination of Hip Fracture With Quantitative Computed Tomography: Results From the Prospective European Femur Fracture Study (EFFECT)

Valérie Danielle Bousson,^{1,2} Judith Adams,³ Klaus Engelke,⁴ Mounir Aout,⁵ Martine Cohen-Solal,⁶ Catherine Bergot,² Didier Haguenauer,⁷ Daniele Goldberg,⁸ Karine Champion,⁹ Redha Aksouh,¹ Eric Vicaut,⁵ and Jean-Denis Laredo^{1,2}

DXA BMD not as good of predictor of hip fractures for the "complicated patient" i.e., non-age-related bone loss

• Different patterns of bone "loss" (cortical vs. trabecular) with different metabolic disorders ...analogous to spaceflight effects



Seeman, JCI 1992 Slide courtesy of Dr. Amin, MD Dual Photon Absorptiometry (DPA)

Describing changes in hip bone strength with Finite Element Modeling/Analysis: Emerging data from population studies.

- <u>Male-female differences in prediction of hip fracture during finite</u> <u>element analysis</u>. Keyak JH, Sigurdsson S, Karlsdottir G, Oskarsdottir D, Sigmarsdottir A, Zhao S, Kornak J, Harris TB, Sigurdsson G, Jonsson BY, Siggeirsdottir K, Eiriksdottir G, Gudnason V, Lang TR. Bone. 2011;48(6):1239-1245.
- <u>Association of hip strength estimates by finite –element analysis with</u> <u>fractures in women and men</u>. Amin S,, Kopperdahl DL, Melton LJ 3rd, Achenbach SJ, Therneau TM, Riggs BL, Keaveny TM, Khosla S. J Bone Miner Res. 2011;26(7):1593-1600.
- <u>Age-dependence of femoral strength in white women and men.</u> Keaveny TM, Kopperdahl DL, Melton III LJ, Hoffmann PF, Amin S, Riggs BL, Khosla S. J Bone Miner Res. 2010;25(5):994-1001.
- Osteoporotic Fractures in Med Study Group. Finite element analysis of the proximal femur and hip fracture risk in older men. Orwoll ES, Marshall LM, Nielson CM, Cummings SR, Lapidus J, Cauley JA, Ensrud K, Lane N, Hoffmann PR, Kopperdahl DL, Keaveny TM J Bone Miner Res. 2009;24(3):475–483.

Finite Element Models of QCT data – "FE modeling" is a <u>computational tool</u> to estimate failure loads ("strength") of complex structures.







J. Keyak et al, 1998, 2001, 2005

Siep: Step-1. Unovernet 1: Step Time = 1.2280E-16 Pérmany Vier 3, Mises

Images courtesy of Dr. J Keyak

Individual Results Stance Loading (4 to 30% loss in strength)



Individual Results Fall Loading (3 gain to 24% loss in strength)



QCT + FEM has superior capabilities for estimating mechanical strength of ex-vivo specimens.

QCT estimates <u>fracture loads</u> better than DXA

QCT + FEM has superior <u>capabilities for estimating fracture</u> <u>loads</u>

DD Cody: Femoral strength is better predicted by finite element models than QCT and DXA. J Biomechanics 32:1013 1999



Fig. 5. The predicted strength of the specimers in the test set (developed from the models generated using the training set) plotted against their actual measured values for each of the three methods (at QCT, b; DXA; c; FUM).

Assessing Fracture risk following spaceflight by 1 measure vs > 1 measure.



Additional cut-points for Bone Health: FE Modeling of QCT Scans from Population Studies FE Task Group:

E. Orwoll MD, S Khosla MD, S Amin MD, T Lang PhD, J Keyak PhD, T Keaveny PhD, D Cody PhD, JD Sibonga, Ph.D.



Probabilistic Risk Assessments for Bone Fracture: NASA's Model for Fracture Likelihood



Summary

- DXA –widely-applied medical test for terrestrial medicine but may be too limiting for operational and clinical decision-making for bone health of astronauts.
- If skeletal integrity is assessed solely by a <u>surrogate</u> measure of bone strength (DXA –BMD) vs. an <u>estimate</u> of bone strength (e.g., FE modeling), then there may be a risk of underestimating fracture probability and poorly estimating countermeasure efficacy.
- <u>Bone Research</u> in progress to test QCT as a risk surveillance technology and to derive new cut-points to supplement bone health standards.



Thank you. QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Backup Slides

Study on Risk Surveillance: Hip QCT





- Test feasibility of QCT protocol for surveillance of clinical trigger.
- Accumulate surveillance data for development of clinical practice guidelines (QCT and FEM)
- Research: Demonstrate how QCT can delineate biochemical from mechanical countermeasures.
 "Proof of Concept" Pilot Study

Figures courtesy of T. Lang (UCSF) and D. Carter (Stanford U)



Use of Osteoporosis Policy-makers help to translate research data to CPGs in absence of fracture data.



HRP slide courtesy C. Kundrot Adapted Sibonga 2012

Effects on Different Compartments of Bone (cortical vs. trabecular BMDs)





ES Nelson et al. Development and validation of a predictive bone fracture risk model for astronauts NASA Glenn Research Center, Cleveland, OH Ann Biomed Eng, 37(11), 2009, pg. 2337 - 2359.

Different ways to <u>unbalance</u> remodeling at bone surface.



Different levels of cell number and cell activities ending in deficit of bone at the BRU.



QCT provides useful information re: causation of hip fracture, evaluation of hip fracture risk and possible targets for intervention.

TABLE 4. HRS OF MULTIVARIATE MODELS OF SKELETAL PARAMETERS AT THE FEMORAL NECK FOR HIP FRACTURE ADJUSTED FOR CLINIC SITE, AGE, AND BODY MASS INDEX									
	Model A (HR per SD decrease)			Model B (HR per SD decrease)			Model C (HR per SD decrease)		
	HR	95% CI	р	HR	95% CI	р	HR	95% CI	р
Trabecular bone, volumetric BMD (g/cm ³)	-			1.65	1.15, 2.37	0.007	1.29	0.84, 1.98	0.250
Percent cortical volume				3.19	2.23, 4.57	$<\!0.001$	2.42	1.56, 3.76	< 0.001
Minimum cross-sectional	/_			1.59	1.24, 2.05	$<\!0.001$	1.48	1.14, 1.94	0.004
Areal BMD from DXA (g/cm ²)	4.13	2.67, 6.38	<0.001	-			1.91	1.06, 3.46	0.033

Area under the ROC curve for Models A, B, and C were 0.853, 0.855, and 0.860, respectively.

ARED exercise appears to mitigate decline in areal BMD.



(J Bone Mineral Research. Smith et al 2012) * this is not ref for figure.

FE Standards Combine Aging and Spaceflight Changes to Hip Strength and used together with DXA BMD Standards.





Steven Goldstein, Ph.D. "Bone Quality: A Biomechanical Perspective"

QCT in Population Study: Age-related Changes

Suggests that femoral neck total area increases by outward displacement when cortex thins with age



Riggs et al. JBMR19:1945, 2004.

The long-duration astronaut – not typical subject to evaluate osteoporosis (4/2014).

- Typical space mission duration 159 ± 32d (range 49-215d)
- Average Age 47 ± 5 y (range 36 56)
- Male to Female Ratio 4.4 : 1
- Current total # per astronauts in corps 59 of 365
- # repeat fliers 6
- BMI Male BMI 25.7 ± 2.2 (range 21.2 to 30.7); Female BMI 22.2 ± 2.3 (range 20.1 to 25.9)
- Wt and Ht- Males: Males: 81 ± 9 (64 to 101); 176 ± 6 (163 to 185)
- Females: 64 ± 7 (54 to 81), 169 ± 4 (163 to 178)
- % Body Fat: Males 20 ± 4 (9 to 27); Females 27 ± 8 (19 to 41)
- MEDICAL PRIVACY A MAJOR CONSTRAINT
Bone Remodeling Sequence

