





Elizabeth Board, MD DABA, IFMCP

Atlanta Functional Medicine

Why is Bone Density Important?

Impact of Movement/Exercise

- Cardiovascular fitness
- Metabolism (managing blood sugar and insulin)
- Stress reduction
- Cancer risk reduction
- Detoxification
- Depression booster, increases dopamine
- Improves and maintains cognition; increases BDNF



Ruegsegger, G. N., & Booth, F. W. (2018). Health Benefits of Exercise. *Cold Spring Harbor perspectives in medicine*, 8(7), a029694 Lieberman D.E. (2013). *The Story of the Human Body*. New York: Vintage Books





Cerebrovascular and Cognitive Functioning **ICBFM**

Review Article

Benefits of exercise training on cerebrovascular and cognitive function in ageing

Edward S Bliss¹, Rachel HX Wong^{2,3}, Peter RC Howe^{2,3,4} and Dean F Mills¹

Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow & Metabolism 2021, Vol. 41(3) 447-470 © The Author(s) 2020 0 0 3

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Abstract

"evidence indicated that exercise can improve cerebrovascular function, cognition and neuroplasticity through areas of the brain associated with executive function and memory in adults 50 years or older, irrespective of their health status.

tion and neuroplasticity through areas of the brain associated with executive function and memory in adults 50 years or older, irrespective of their health status. However, more research is required to ascertain the mechanisms of action.







Functional Medicine Deep Dive

Why is Bone Density Important?

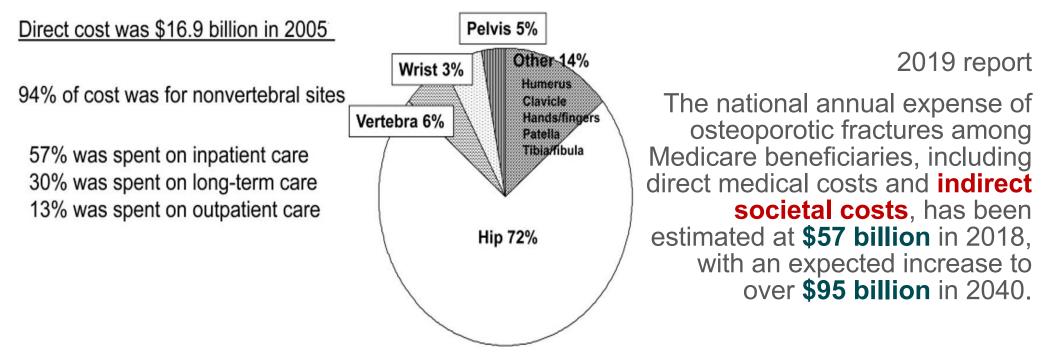
- Prevent chronic pain: produce endorphins, produce synovial fluid in joints
- Avoid digestive and respiratory disorders caused by vertebral fractures
- Prevent disability: maintain muscle mass, neuromuscular control, balance
- Maintain independence: nearly 40% of persons who experience a fracture are unable to walk independently at 1 year, and 60% require assistance with at least 1 essential activity of daily living

JAMA (2018) Screening for Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: US Preventive Services Task Force. Jun 26;319(24):2521-2531 Ruegsegger, G. N., & Booth, F. W. (2018). Health Benefits of Exercise. *Cold Spring Harbor perspectives in medicine*, 8(7), a029694.





OSTEOPOROSIS FINANCIAL IMPACT



Endocr Pract. 2010 Nov-Dec; 16(Suppl 3): 1–37.

Lewiecki EM, Ortendahl JD, Vanderpuye-Orgle J, et al. Healthcare Policy Changes in Osteoporosis Can Improve Outcomes and Reduce Costs in the United States. JBMR Plus. May 2019.



Biggest Reason to Avoid Osteoporosis

Avoid early **DEATH**



- 21-30% of people who have a hip fracture die within 1 year.
- Male mortality after hip fracture is 3x higher than females.
- Higher death rates in Black men.

JAMA. 2018 Screening for Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: US Preventive Services Task Force. Jun 26;319(24):2521-2531 Rinonapoli, G et al (2021) Osteoporosis in Men: A Review of an Underestimated Bone Condition. *Int J Mol Sci.*, 22, 2105 Vescini, F., et al (2021). Management of Osteoporosis in Men: A Narrative Review. *International journal of molecular sciences*, 22(24), 13640.





AGENDA

- \checkmark Why is osteoporosis prevention and treatment important to you γ
- How widespread is this silent disease? Special focus on men
- What are the risk factors and root causes for Osteoporosis
- Introduce Functional Medicine Tools
 - Historical timeline to identify predisposing factors, triggering events and perpetuating contributors.
 - Organize and prioritize imbalanced biologic processes for treatment
 - Leverage modifiable lifestyle factors
- Applying functional lab testing: precision and confirmation of tailored treatment
- Review current pharmacologic treatments available: their risks and benefits
- Inspiring case reports.







New Diagnoses of OSTEOPOROSIS Annually

213,000‡ Breast Cancer bined in U.S. women based on recent statistics (2004 to 2006).

Endocr Pract. 2010 Nov-Dec; 16(6): 1016– 1019. American Association Of Clinical Endocrinologists Medical Guidelines For Clinical Practice For The Diagnosis And Treatment Of Postmenopausal Osteoporosis: Executive Summary Of Recommendations <u>Nelson B. Watts</u>, MD, FACP, MACE et. Al.





Prevalence in the US:

By 2020 expected 12.3 million diagnosed with Osteoporosis.

2010: 10.2 million older adults had osteoporosis. Low bone mass prevalence: 43.9% = 43.4 million older adults

7.7 million non-Hispanic white, 0.6 million Mexican American, 0.5 million non-Hispanic black adults had osteoporosis.

Combined, osteoporosis and low bone mass affected an estimated **53.6 million** older US adults in 2010.

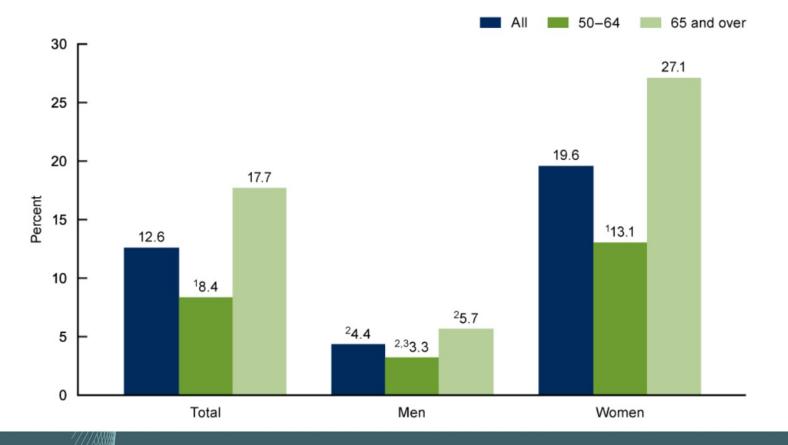
Although most with osteoporosis or low bone mass were non-Hispanic white women, many men and women from other racial/ethnic groups also had osteoporotic BMD or low bone mass.

Wright, N. C., et al. (2014), J Bone Miner Res, 29: 2520–2526. doi:10.1002/jbmr. JAMA (2018) Screening for Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: US Preventive Services Task Force. Jun 26;319(24):2521-2531.

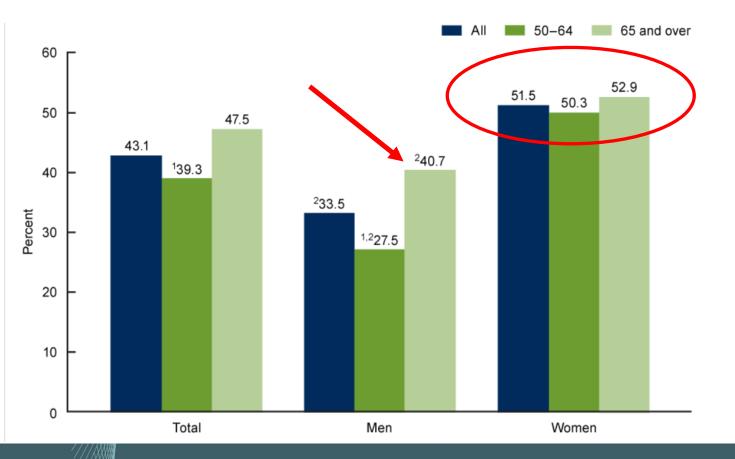




Prevalence of osteoporosis among adults 2017-2018.







Prevalence of **low bone mass** among adults 2017-2018.

Functional Medicine Deep Dive

The USPSTF recommends screening women 65 years and older, and women with increased risk factors.



Osteoporosis in Men

USPSTF recommends <u>against</u> routine DEXA screening – evidence was "insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in men"

"underestimated, underdiagnosed and undertreated" - 2021 review by Rinonapoli, G



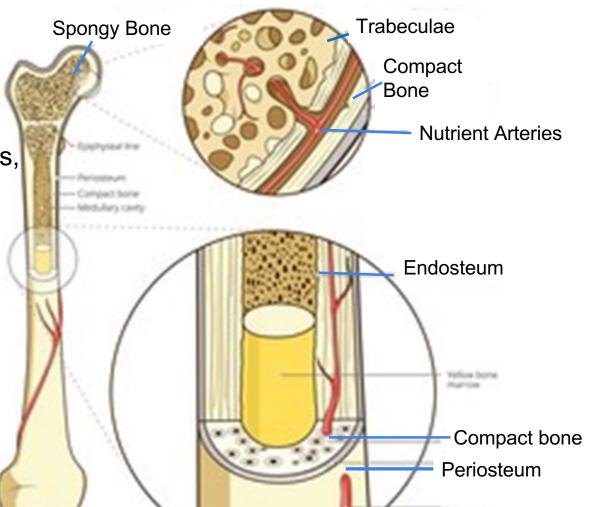
- sons of osteoporotic women, have early bone loss unrelated to age.
- men have a higher fracture-related mortality rate than women: 10 yr mortality 57.4% men and 48.4% of women
- hip fracture hospitalization, mortality rate:10.2% men vs. 4.7% of women -2005
- Post hip fracture: only 8% of men received osteoporosis treatment as compared to 23.3% of women.

https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/osteoporosis-screening Rinonapoli, G et al Osteoporosis in Men: A Review of an Understeimated Bone Condition. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021, 22, 2105. Vescini, F et al. Management of Osteoporosis in Men. A Narrative review. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021, 22, 13640.



Bone Structure

- Periosteum: fibrous membrane covering outer surface of all bones, except articular spaces.
- Endosteum: lining of the inner surface of the medullary cavity of long bones
- Trabeculae: columns, rods of connective tissue, supports & lightens
- **Spongy Bone**: cancellous bone, contains trabeculae
- Cortical Bone: dense outer bone



Functional Medicine Deep Dive

Osteoporosis: Men vs Women

Men

- Trabeculae thin out more, but connectivity maintained
- Thicker periosteum and more trabecular surface
- 65% is due to extra skeletal causes
- 20% of osteoporotic men have hypogonadism
- Testosterone inversely related to fracture risk: stimulates bone growth, and muscle for stability
- Aromatase deficiency is associated with decreased bone mass. CYP19A1 codes for aromatase
- Men at age 70 should get a DEXA to screen.
 Only 11% of men get screened currently

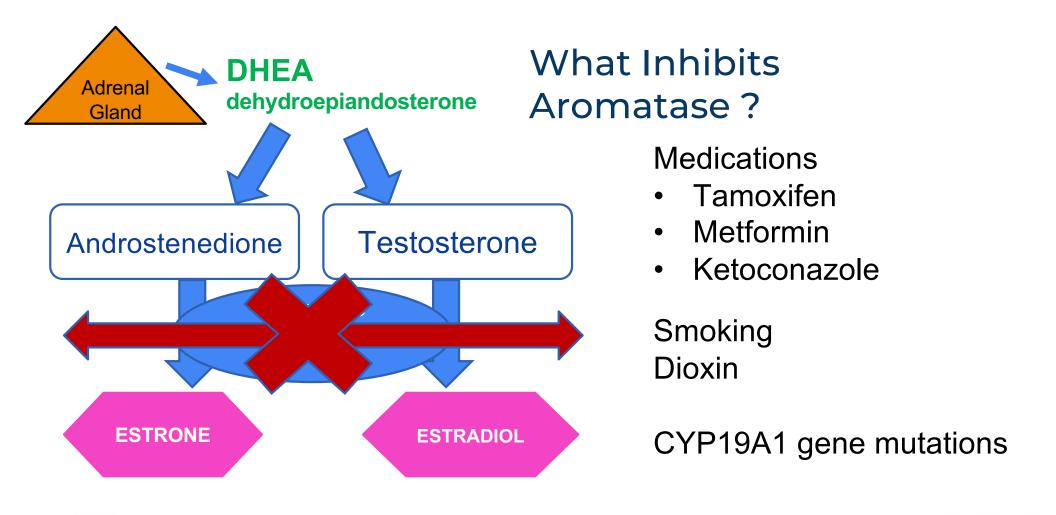


- bone loss in women
- Testosterone increases muscle mass
- DEXA at age 65, earlier if risk factors.

Rinonapoli, G et al Osteoporosis in Men: A Review of an Underestimated Bone Condition. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021, 22, 2105. Vescini, F et al. Management of Osteoporosis in Men. A Narrative review. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021, 22, 13640

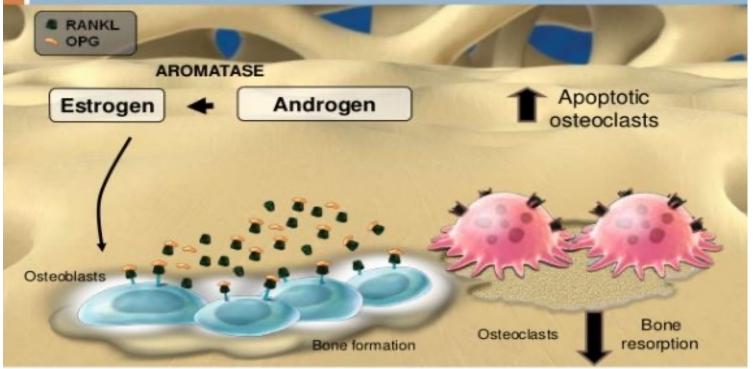








Estrogen Limits RANKL Expression and Stimulates OPG Production



Osteoclasts: clear out old bone

Osteoblasts: build bone

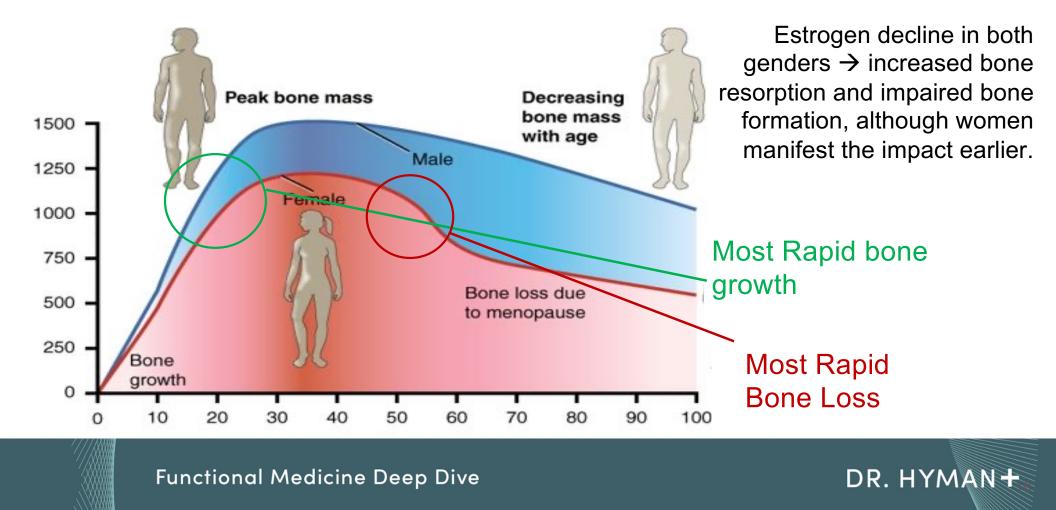
OPG, osteoprotegerin; RANKL, receptor activator for nuclear factor κ B ligand.

Boyle WJ, et al. Nature 2003; 423:337-42.

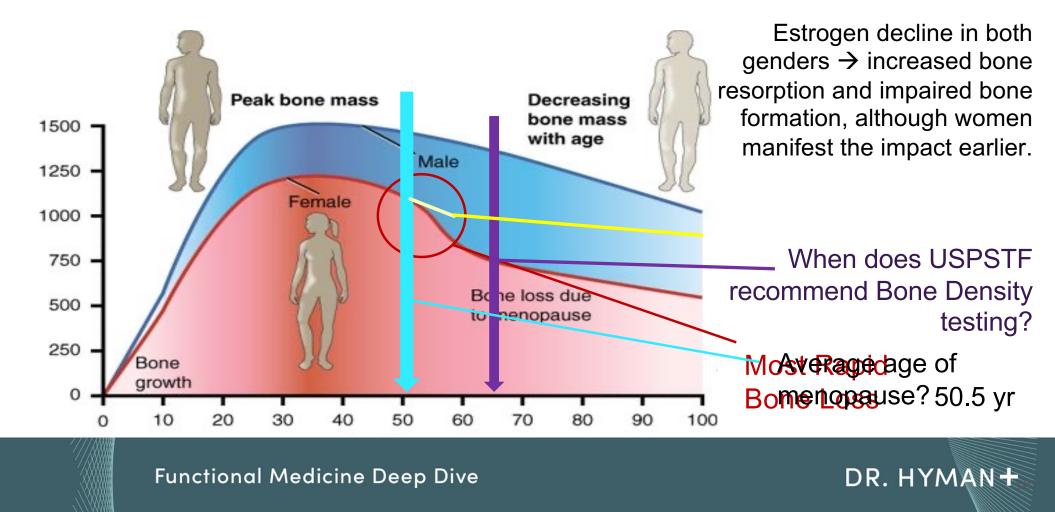


Functional Medicine Deep Dive

Age Related vs. Hormone Related Bone loss



Age Related vs. Hormone Related Bone loss



CONVENTIONAL CLUES to make the DIAGNOSIS

- Insidious, silent, progressive condition: "dowager's hump" a dorsal kyphosis
- Loss of height: loss of 1.5 inches raises the concern for vertebral fractures
- Tooth loss, dental caries
- Skeletal pain due to fractures, frequent fractures

often too late

Identify those at risk for osteoporosis and intervene BEFORE they fracture, lose teeth, height, and function.



Functional Medicine Deep Dive



Risk Factors ANTECEDENTS, TRIGGERS, MEDIATORS

- Females
- Age
- Low BMI, thin, petite
- Asian or white race
- Fragility fracture (adult)
- Parental hip fracture
- Latitude location
- Glucocorticoid Use
- Cigarette Smoking
- Weight loss

- Prolonged Stress
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Alcohol: \geq 10 per week
- Type 1 & 2 diabetes
- Chronic malnutrition
- Hyper or hypothyroidism
- Hyperparathyroidism
- Liver disease, chronic
- Kidney disease, chronic
- HIV infection

- Organ transplantation
- Prolonged immobility
- Hypogonadism, nulliparous
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Malabsorption, Celiac
- COPD
- Medications
- Malignancies
- Environmental Toxins
- Chronic inflammation

Kanis, J. A.et.al (2019). European guidance for the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. Osteoporosis international : a journal established as result of cooperation between the European Foundation for Osteoporosis and the National Osteoporosis Foundation of the USA, 30(1), 3-44.



Case #1 Lucy

CCs: Lumbar Back Pain, Stalled weight loss, Insomnia

- 4y: Allergy to kale and mustard greens
- 12y: Menarche
- 20s-30s: smoker
- 39y:Dieting, lost 50 lbs eventually gained it back
- 40y: miscarriage, otherwise nulliparous.
- 43y: Hypothyroidism
- 49y: Dieting, lost 50 lbs eventually gained it
 back
- 42y: Hysterectomy (ovaries retained)

- 53y: Fall without fracture
- 53y:STRESS due to deaths of friends, family members
- 54y:Breast cancer diagnosis
- 55y:lumpectomy, tamoxifen, "normal" DEXA
- 55-56y: Increasing lumbar back pain, scar pain, cannot exercise
- 56y: "Post Menopausal" based on hormones
- 56y: Recent 50 lb weight loss, ketogenic diet







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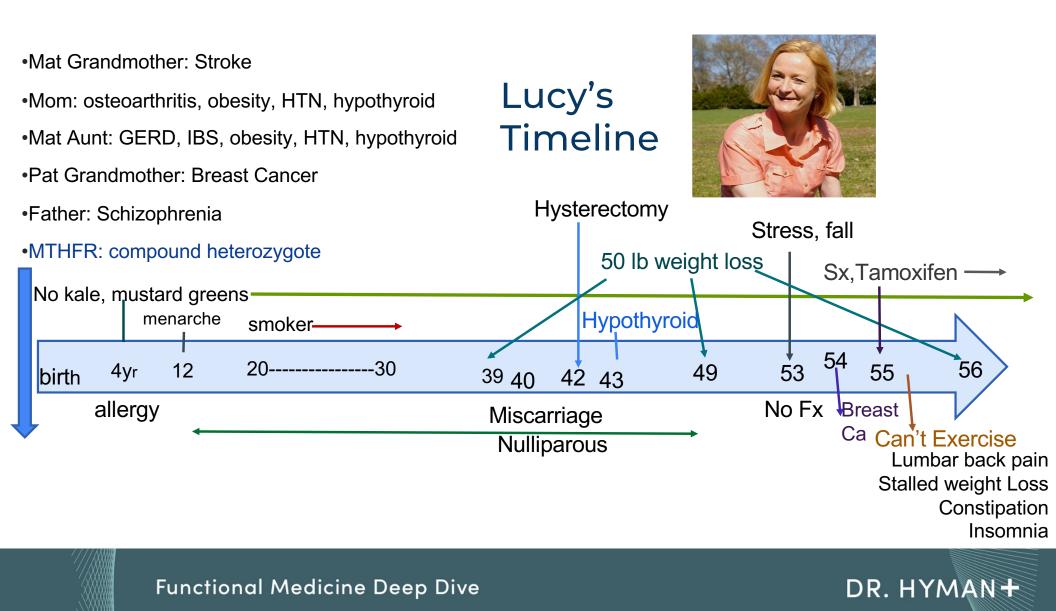
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- 55y:lumpectomy, tamoxifen, "normal" DEXA
- 55-56y: Increasing lumbar back pain, scar pain, cannot exercise
- 56y: "Post Menopausal" based on hormones
- 56y: Recent 50 lb weight loss, ketogenic diet









Case #1 Lucy

Deep Dive into her labs

- **PRIOR LABS**: 2015 normal DEXA "Oscal and Vit D"
- Current LIFESTYLE: Poor sleep. Can't exercise due to back pain.
- NonGMO, organic, no soy, no gluten, no foods in mustard family, Paleo in 2015, began ketogenic 9 mo ago losing 50 pounds. Recent stress: deaths of friends/family. Supportive relationships.
- Current sex hormone levels: Low estrogen and progesterone after Tamoxifen.
- Current Labs: hsCRP: 5.7, MTHFR: compound heterozygote, 25-OH VitD: 47, coQ10 2.46, midday cortisol: 16.3, HbA1C: 5.4, TSH: 0.97, free T4: 1.37, free T3: 2.2, reverse T3:19, Alk Phos: 33
 - •Causes of Decreased ALK PHOS:
 - Deficiency of: Zn, Vit C, B6, B9, B12, Mag, Phos
- Hypochlorhydria
- •Celiac
- Hypothyroidism
- •Excess Vit D







Measuring Bone Density

DXA: Dual-energy Xray Absorptiometry

- T scores: amount of bone density compared to young adult of your same height
- -1.1 to -2.4 is osteopenia
- -2.5 or more standard deviations from the mean is considered "osteoporosis"
- Z scores: amount compared to people in your age group.
- pDXAs: forearm

QCT: quantitative computerized tomography: much more radiation

- Differentiates trabecular vs.cortical bone.
- Only check L1 and L2
- Used for specific concerns

QUS: quantitative Ultrasound of the heel or the wrist as a screening measurement of bone density.

- Less specific and cannot be used to diagnose osteoporosis.
- Used as a screening tool. Simpson, L., Dr Lani's No-Nonsense Bone Health Guide. 2014, pp.78-80





DIAGNOSIS

Tips for an accurate DEXA:

- Same machine.
- Same technician.
- Look at the tracings.
- Dismiss bone that is arthritic/degenerative because it can overestimate bone density.
- DEXA is less accurate in the very small boned (children).
- Cannot differentiate between cortical and trabecular bone

L-1

L-2

L-3

L-1

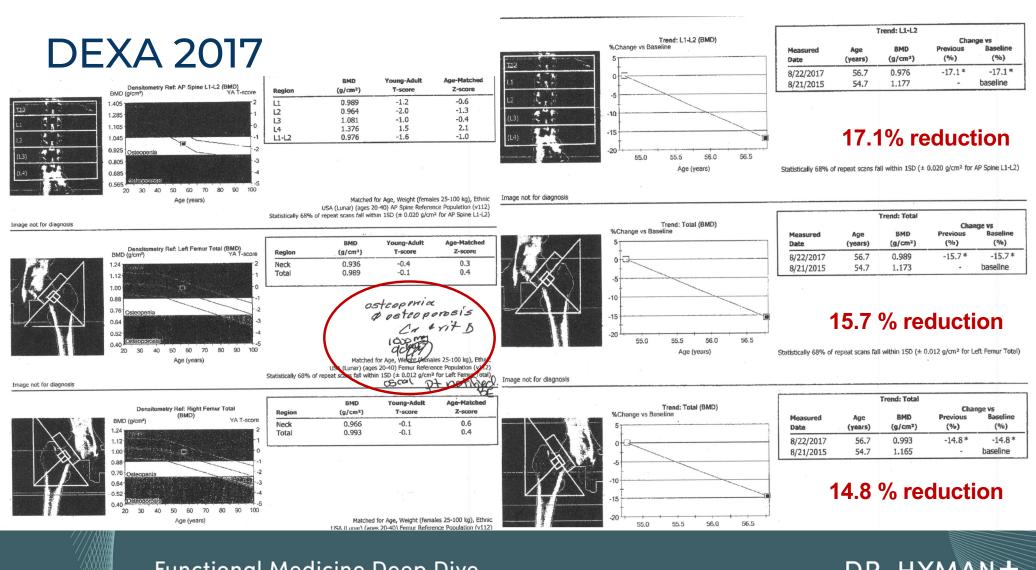
L-2

L-3

Simpson, L., Dr Lani's No-Nonsense Bone Health Guide. 2014, pp.47-49.



Functional Medicine Deep Dive



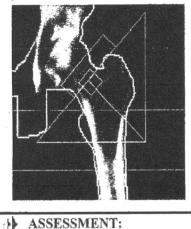
Functional Medicine Deep Dive

FRAX

- Algorithm to provide an estimate of the probability of fracturing a bone within 10 years.
- Factors include: age, sex, height, weight, prior fx, parental fx, smoker, steroid use, RA, EtOH use
- Integrates established risk factors and BMD from the DEXA fem neck.
- Used to influence need to start treatment.

Simpson, L., Dr Lani's No-Nonsense Bone Health Guide. 2014, pp.84-85.

FRAX* RESULTS: (version: 3.1)



with a:

 \bigcirc

	10-year Probability of Fracture ¹	
	Major Osteoporotic Fracture ² 5.9%	Hip Fracture 0.2%
	Population: USA (Caucasian) Risk Factors: None NOF/ISCD Filters: None	
	Based on Femur (Left) Neck BMD 1 -The 10-year probability of fracture may be lower than rep 2 -Major Osteoporotic Fracture: Clinical Spine, Forearm, Hi	ip or
ASSESSMENT:	*FRAX is a trademark of the University of Sheffield Medic: World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre.	
he probability of a major osteoporotic fracture	is 5.9% within the next ten years.	
Y. REC	in postmenopausal v	women
I treatment and men w	ith a:	ities, al significam
	ertebral fracture	a Significan

- In addition, t T score of < -2.5 at spine or hip * Hip or verte
- Ten year FRAX > 3% hip fracture * T-score of * Ten-year fr
- or \geq 20% major osteoporotic fracture FOL People with o

ible for

= 50 years

Medicare, routine testing is allowed once every 2 years. The testing frequency can be increased to one year for patients who have rapidly progressing disease, those who are receiving or discontinuing medical therapy to restore bone mass, or have additional risk factors.





Conventional Treatment Plan



"Oscal and Vit D"

Ingredients: Calcium Carbonate, Corn Syrup Solids, Contains Less Than 2% of Talc, Corn Starch, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Polysorbate 80, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Polyethylene Glycol 3350, Titanium Dioxide, Yellow 5 Lake, Blue 1 Lake, Calcium Stearate, Methylparaben and Propylparaben (Preservative), Gelatin, Sucrose, Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3), Di-Alpha Tocopherol

•500mg Calcium carbonate and 200iu of Vitamin D3





Conventional Treatment Plan



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Ingredients: Calcium Carbonate, Corn Syrup Solids, Contains Less Than 2% of Talc, Corn Starch, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Polysorbate 80, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Polyethylene Glycol 3350, Titanium Dioxide, Yellow 5 Lake, Blue 1 Lake, Calcium Stearate, Methylparaben and Propylparaben (Preservative), Gelatin, Sucrose, Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3), Di-Alpha Tocopherol

•500mg Calcium carbonate and 200iu of Vitamin D3

Let's dive deeper to discover Lucy's Root Cause(s) of 17% drop in bone density

Functional Medicine Deep Dive

TREATMENT PLAN for L. B.

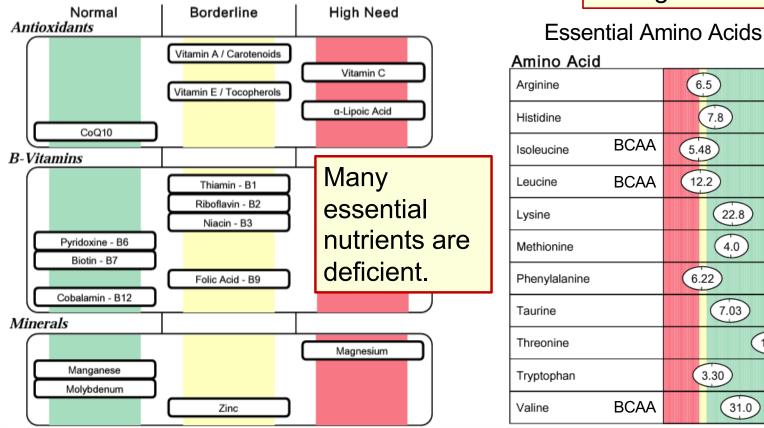
- •Sleep improved with magnesium and resolution of pain with low dose naltrexone. She wants to increase her exercise, but what kind?
- •How much did not being able to exercise impact her bone loss?
- •On a restricted ketogenic diet, can she be missing key ingredients, like Vit K₂?
- •Is her digestion and absorption adequate?
- •Could she be missing minerals which could explain her low alkaline phosphatase?
- •Are her low free T3 and mildly elevated reverse T3 impacting her decreasing bone density? Could key mineral deficiencies be the root cause of poor T3?
- •Can her hormones be further optimized safely, or is estrogen truly necessary for her to build bone?



Functional Medicine Deep Dive



Functional Nutritional Testing



Maldigestion of Protein

Amino Acid	Ret	erence Range	
Arginine	6.5	6.0-17.5	
Histidine	7.8	6.5-13.3	
Isoleucine BCAA	5.48	5.79-18.69	
Leucine BCAA	12.2	12.1-36.1	
Lysine	22.8	13.7-34.7	
Methionine	4.0	2.3-6.5	
Phenylalanine	6.22	6.07-17.46	
Taurine	7.03	4.41-10.99	
Threonine	16.12	6.42-16.32	
Tryptophan	3.30	2.65-6.67	
Valine BCAA	31.0	18.3-42.6	

Functional Medicine Deep Dive

Functional Nutrition Testing

Nonessential Amino Acids

Added Selenium and Zinc to better convert T3. 28 23-62 Alanine 5.3 Asparagine 3.5-11.6 Element Reference Range **Reference Range** <dl Aspartic Acid <= 0.67 Copper (171.2) 75.3-192.0 mcg/dL (plasma) 7.8) Cyst(e)ine 5.9-19.9 Magnesium 37.6 30.1-56.5 mcg/g (RBC) <dl y-Aminobutyric Acid <= 0.06 Manganese 15.3 3.0-16.5 mcg/L (whole blood) 20-14.5 Glutamic Acid 3.5 Tyrosine is the Potassium 2,676 2,220-3,626 mcg/g 49 (KBC) Glutamine -111 building block Selenium for Thyroid 144 109-330 mcg/L 15 -57 (whole blood) Proline hormone Zinc 81.9 64.3-159.4 mcg/dL Tyrosine 6.1 6.2-18.5 (plasma)

Poor conversion of T4 \rightarrow T3

Functional Medicine Deep Dive

Risk Factors ANTECEDENTS, TRIGGERS, MEDIATORS

- Females
- Age
- Low BMI, thin, petite
- Asian or white race
- Fragility fracture (adult)
- Parental hip fracture
- Latitude location
- Glucocorticoid Use
- Cigarette Smoking
- Weight loss X 3

- Prolonged Stress
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Alcohol: > 10 per week
- Type 1 & 2 diabetes
- Chronic malnutrition
- Hyper or hypothyroidism
- Hyperparathyroidism
- Liver disease, chronic
- Kidney disease, chronic
- HIV infection

- Organ transplantation
- Prolonged immobility
- Hypogonadism, nulliparous
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Malabsorption, Celiac
- COPD
- Medications
- Malignancies
- Environmental To
- Chronic Inflammation



Kanis, J. A.et.al (2019). European guidance for the diagnosis and management of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. Osteoporosis international : a journal established as result of cooperation between the European Foundation for Osteoporosis and the National Osteoporosis Foundation of the USA, 30(1), 3-44.

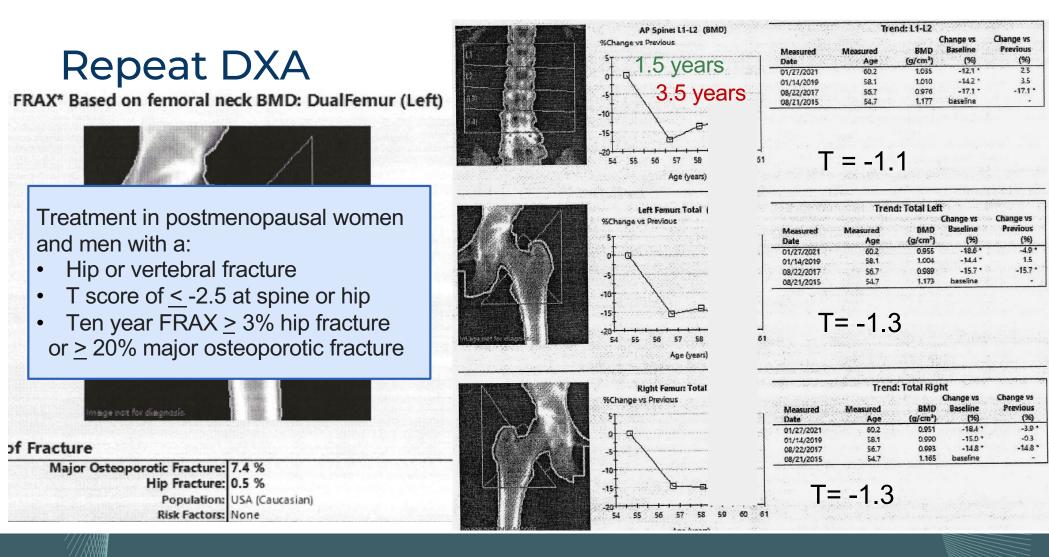
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TREATMENT PLAN Case #1 L. B.

- •Is her digestion and absorption adequate? She had a positive test revealing an HCI deficiency. Started on Betaine HCI; noted improved bloating.
- •Replaced all micronutrients found deficient with nutritional testing.
- •Add in thyroid nutrient support, recheck with improved T4 \rightarrow T3 levels.
- •Breast cancer on Tamoxifen, consider adding progesterone?
- •Withdraw all bone building saboteurs: Stress, no steroids, decrease high protein diet if acidic urine, favor alkaline diet, check Cd, decrease inflammation.
- •Add back in fast walking, posture and pilates.
- •Balance exercises and fall prevention.
- •Do not smoke. Check production of nitric oxide.







Functional Medicine Deep Dive

FUNCTIONAL TREATMENT PLAN that grows bones

How to avoid "oscal and vitamin D" solution?How to remember all the parts of the puzzle?



Functional Medicine Deep Dive

- Gut: Proper digestion and absorption nutrients TREATMENT
 All Right Raw materials: Zn, Mg, Se, Vit K2, AA ... PLAN
- •Optimize hormones: Thyroid, DHEA, Estrogen, Testosterone, Progesterone
- •Withdraw "bone saboteurs": coffee, EtOH, medications, toxins, cortisol
- •Stimulate bone growth: strength training, posture, maintaining muscle mass
- •Blood flow: Avoid smoking, ensure adequate vascular perfusion
- Balance and fall prevention





Opportunities to intervene throughout one's lifetime

Family History: Investigate which genetic snps are present, compensate

Begin bone health prevention in childhood.

Recognize risks that arise in childhood, during and after puberty, young adulthood,

peri menopausal and postmenopausal.

Let's walk quickly through events and conditions that can trigger and contribute to osteoporosis, many of which can be treated or improved.

https://www.bonehealthandosteoporosis.org/preventing-fractures/nutrition-for-bone-health/peak-bone-mass/





Book Resources

•Simpson, Lani. *Dr. Lani's No-Nonsense Bone Health Guide: The Truth about Density Testing, Osteoporosis Drugs and Building Bone Quality at Any Age,* Nashville, TN: Hunter House, 2014.

 Pizzorno, Lara & Jonathan Wright. Your Bones: How YOU can prevent Osteoporosis & Have Strong Bones for Life- Naturally. Edinburgh, VA:Pratikos, 2013.

•McCormick, R. Keith. *The Whole Body Approach to Osteoporosis: How to Improve Bone Strength and Reduce Your Fracture Risk.* Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Pub, 2008.

•Lanou, Amy Joy and Michael Castleman. *Building Bone Vitality: A Revolutionary Diet Plan to Prevent Bone Loss and Reverse Osteoporosis*, McGraw-Hill, 2009.

• PubMed articles, Medscape Articles.





www.atlantafunctionalmedicine.com

contactus@atlantafunctionalmedicine.com

drboard@atlantafunctionalmedicine.com

Phone 770-667-3006 Fax 770-667-3311



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