

## Systematic review of the use of bone turnover markers for monitoring the response to osteoporosis treatment: the secondary prevention of fractures, and primary prevention of fractures in high-risk groups

*Jane Burch, Stephen Rice, Huiqin Yang, Aileen Neilson, Lisa Stirk, Roger Francis, Paul Holloway, Peter Selby and Dawn Craig*



**National Institute for  
Health Research**



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**Declared competing interests of authors:** Roger Francis has served on an advisory board for the manufacturers of denosumab, Amgen/GlaxoSmithKline (GSK); served as an advisor on a study of strontium ranelate to Servier; received fees as an expert advisor in a legal case regarding a potential bisphosphonate patient case; and received lecture fees from Servier, Amgen/GSK and Shire Pharmaceuticals. Roger Francis has no competing interests related to the bone marker tests being evaluated. Paul Holloway is director of a bone biochemical marker diagnostic supra-regional analytical and advisory service that supports his hospital clinical service and some local and external clinical services. He is a member of the specialist advisory group for the National External Quality Assurance Service (NEQAS) for bone biomarkers. Neither of these roles are considered a conflict of interest. None of the other authors has any competing interests to declare.

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# Abstract

## Systematic review of the use of bone turnover markers for monitoring the response to osteoporosis treatment: the secondary prevention of fractures, and primary prevention of fractures in high-risk groups

Jane Burch,<sup>1</sup> Stephen Rice,<sup>1</sup> Huiqin Yang,<sup>1</sup> Aileen Neilson,<sup>1</sup> Lisa Stirk,<sup>1</sup> Roger Francis,<sup>2</sup> Paul Holloway,<sup>3</sup> Peter Selby<sup>4</sup> and Dawn Craig<sup>1\*</sup>

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**Background:** There is currently no standard practice for the monitoring of patients receiving treatment for osteoporosis. Repeated dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) is commonly used for monitoring treatment response, but it has its limitations. Bone turnover markers have advantages over DXA as they are non-invasive, relatively cheap and can detect changes in bone turnover rates earlier. However, they do have disadvantages, particularly high within- and between-patient variability. The ability of bone turnover markers to identify treatment non-responders and predict future fracture risk has yet to be established.

**Objectives:** We aimed to determine the clinical effectiveness, test accuracy, reliability, reproducibility and cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for monitoring the response to osteoporosis treatment.

**Data sources:** We searched 12 electronic databases (including MEDLINE, EMBASE, The Cochrane Library and trials registries) without language restrictions from inception to March 2012. We hand-searched three relevant journals for the 12 months prior to May 2012, and websites of five test manufacturers and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Reference lists of included studies and relevant reviews were also searched.

**Review methods:** A systematic review of test accuracy, clinical utility, reliability and reproducibility, and cost-effectiveness of two formation and two resorption bone turnover markers, in patients being treated for osteoporosis with any of bisphosphonate [alendronate (Fosamax<sup>®</sup>, MSD), risedronate (Actonel<sup>®</sup>, Warner Chilcott Company), zoledronate (Zometa<sup>®</sup>, Novartis)], raloxifene (Evista<sup>®</sup>, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd), strontium ranelate (Protelos<sup>®</sup>, Servier Laboratories Ltd), denosumab (Prolia<sup>®</sup>, Amgen Ltd) or teriparatide (Forsteo<sup>®</sup>, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd), was undertaken according to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines. Given the breadth of the review question, a range of study designs and outcome measures were eligible. The development of a decision model was planned to determine the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for informing changes in patient management if clinical effectiveness could be established.

**Results:** Forty-two studies (70 publications) met the inclusion criteria; none evaluated cost-effectiveness. Only five were randomised controlled trials (RCTs); these assessed only the impact of bone marker monitoring on aspects of adherence. No RCTs evaluated the effectiveness of bone turnover marker

monitoring on treatment management. One trial suggested that feedback of a good response decreased non-persistence [hazard ratio (HR) 0.71, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.53 to 0.95], and feedback of a poor response increased non-persistence (HR 2.22, 95% CI 1.27 to 3.89); it is not clear whether or not the trial recruited a population representative of that seen in clinical practice. Thirty-three studies reported results of some assessment of test accuracy, mostly correlations between changes in bone turnover and bone mineral density. Only four studies reported on intra- or interpatient reliability and reproducibility in treated patients. Overall, the results were inconsistent and inconclusive, owing to considerable clinical heterogeneity across the studies and the generally small sample sizes. As clinical effectiveness of bone turnover monitoring could not be established, a decision-analytic model was not developed.

**Conclusions:** There was insufficient evidence to inform the choice of which bone turnover marker to use in routine clinical practice to monitor osteoporosis treatment response. The research priority is to identify the most promising treatment–test combinations for evaluation in subsequent, methodologically sound, RCTs. In order to determine whether or not bone turnover marker monitoring improves treatment management decisions, and ultimately impacts on patient outcomes in terms of reduced incidence of fracture, RCTs are required. Given the large number of potential patient population–treatment–test combinations, the most promising combinations would initially need to be identified in order to ensure that any RCTs focus on evaluating those strategies. As a result, the research priority is to identify these promising combinations, by either conducting small variability studies or initiating a patient registry to collect standardised data.

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## List of abbreviations

AUC	area under the curve	P1NP	procollagen type 1 amino-terminal propeptide
BALP	bone-specific alkaline phosphatase	PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
BMD	bone mineral density	PTH	parathyroid hormone
BMI	body mass index	QALY	quality-adjusted life-year
CG	clinical guideline	QoL	quality of life
CI	confidence interval	$R^2$	regression coefficient (coefficient of determination)
CTX	carboxy-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen	RCT	randomised controlled trial
CV	coefficient of variation	SAS	Supra-Regional Assay Service
DXA	dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry	sCTX	serum carboxy-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay	SERM	selective oestrogen receptor modulator
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration	S/N	signal to noise ratio
GnRH	gonadotropin-releasing hormone	sNTX	serum amino-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen
GP	general practitioner	SPC	summary of product characteristics
HEED	Health Economic Evaluations Database	TA	technology appraisal
HR	hazard ratio	T-score	number of standard deviations above/below mean for healthy 30-year-olds of same gender and ethnicity as the patient
HRT	hormone replacement therapy	uCTX	urinary carboxy-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen
IRMA	immunoradiometric assay	uNTX	urinary amino-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen
ITT	intention to treat	WHO	World Health Organization
MeSH	medical subject heading	Z-score	number of standard deviations above/below mean for patient's age, gender and ethnicity
MPR	medical possession ratio		
NHS EED	NHS Economic Evaluation Database		
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence		
NTX	amino-terminal cross-linked type 1 collagen		
ONJ	osteonecrosis of the jaw		
OPPS	Osteoporosis Patient Perception Survey		
OWH	Office for Women's Health		
P1CP	procollagen type 1 carboxy-terminal propeptide		



# Scientific summary

## Background

Osteoporosis is a progressive systemic skeletal disease characterised by low bone mass and micro-architectural deterioration of bone tissue, with a consequent increase in bone fragility and susceptibility to fracture. Approximately 3 million people in the UK have osteoporosis, with about 20% of women aged 60–69 years being affected. There are approximately 230,000 osteoporotic fractures every year. Medical therapies available for osteoporosis include bisphosphonates, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, teriparatide and denosumab.

There is currently no standard practice for the monitoring of patients receiving treatment for osteoporosis. Repeated dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) is a commonly used diagnostic test for monitoring treatment response but has its limitations, including the time needed prior to a repeated measure to detect changes in bone mineral density (BMD); limited access to the technology; cost (average £72 per scan); and evidence of the limited value in regular monitoring of BMD in patients on bisphosphonate therapy.

Bone turnover markers may offer an alternative monitoring strategy. They measure bone resorption or formation. Bone turnover markers have advantages over DXA for monitoring response to osteoporosis therapy; they are non-invasive, relatively cheap (commonly £20 to £25 per test), and have the ability to detect changes in bone turnover rates as early as 2 weeks for some therapies, and between 3 and 6 months for most. However, they do have disadvantages, most notably the variability across samples (both within and between patients). This leads to the need for a proportionately high percentage change in the rate of the bone turnover marker being measured in order to identify treatment responders. In addition, their ability to identify treatment non-responders and their use as independent predictors of future fracture risk has yet to be established.

## Objectives

The primary aims of this assessment are to determine the clinical effectiveness, test accuracy, test reliability and reproducibility, and cost-effectiveness of monitoring regimens with at least one of four bone turnover markers, namely procollagen type 1 amino-terminal propeptide (P1NP), bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BALP), carboxy-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen (CTX) and type 1 collagen amino-terminal telopeptide (NTX), in patients with osteoporosis being treated with any of bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide.

## Methods

The review was conducted systematically following the general principles recommended in the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination's guidance for undertaking reviews in health care and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) statement. Data were sought systematically from 12 electronic databases (including MEDLINE, EMBASE and The Cochrane Library) from inception up to March 2012. These were supplemented by searches of reference lists of included studies and relevant reviews, recent contents pages of relevant journals, and relevant websites. Inclusion was restricted to studies in adults (> 18 years of age) but not by date or language of publication.

To be included in the review, a study had to be either (1) a randomised controlled trial (RCT) comparing a monitoring regimen that included at least one bone turnover marker test with a monitoring regimen

without bone turnover marker testing, or a different bone turnover marker, and reporting either change in patient management strategies and/or treatment adherence rates; (2) a study evaluating the impact of bone turnover marker test results on the decision-making process, that also reported the subsequent rate of fracture in the population; (3) a prospective study that compared the results of bone turnover marker tests with the results of bone biopsy or a composite reference standard of BMD and subsequent fracture outcome; (4) a prospective study that reported at least a  $p$ -value for the association between changes in bone turnover markers and BMD, biopsy, and/or the incidence of fractures from correlation or multivariate regression analyses; (5) a prospective study reporting inter- and/or inpatient variability on bone turnover marker test results for patients receiving one of the treatments being evaluated; or (6) a cost-effectiveness analysis of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies. Non-effectiveness prospective studies had to recruit at least 20 patients with osteoporosis who were receiving one of the treatments of interest.

An economic model was to be developed only if sufficient evidence was found to establish the clinical effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring on treatment management.

## Results

Forty-two studies (across 70 publications) met the inclusion criteria, all of which were included in the review of clinical effectiveness. Of the 42 studies, five were RCTs. Of the 37 non-randomised studies, 21 were cohorts derived from the treatment arms of RCTs, 15 were uncontrolled cohort studies and one was a controlled cohort study. All included studies were judged to be low quality. The high level of clinical heterogeneity across the studies precluded the use of standard meta-analytic techniques. A narrative synthesis was therefore employed.

### *Clinical effectiveness*

Five RCTs and one post hoc analysis from a RCT assessed the effectiveness of feedback of bone turnover marker results on adherence, compliance and/or persistence. Five trials reporting on compliance showed little difference between the feedback and no feedback arms: high rates of baseline compliance mean that these are unlikely to be representative of clinical practice. Only one trial reported on persistence. Notably, feedback of a good urinary NTX (uNTX) response (> 30% reduction) was associated with a decreased rate of discontinuation [hazard ratio (HR) 0.71, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.53 to 0.95]. In contrast, feedback of a poor uNTX response was associated with an increased rate of discontinuation (HR 2.22, 95% CI 1.27 to 3.89). Two RCTs reported on the quality of life (QoL) using the osteoporosis-specific questionnaire; these variably reported small improvements for patients receiving feedback in the overall, feeling informed, satisfaction and confidence scores. No studies were identified for the evaluation of the effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring on treatment management.

### *Test accuracy*

Thirty-three studies reported results of some assessment of test accuracy, 23 reported only the results of correlation analyses, four only the results of multiple regression analyses, and four reported both. Five studies reported predictive accuracy using alternative analytical methods; three also reported results from correlation and/or multiple regression analyses. Therefore, most of the data identified for the review of test accuracy were results from correlation analyses; the majority of these evaluated associations between changes in bone turnover markers with changes in BMD. Although there were a number of statistically significant associations between these two measures across the different treatments, the vast majority had small effect sizes and were considered weak ( $r < 0.50$ ). The studies that used regression analyses to adjust for confounding factors gave some indication that changes in bone turnover markers may be significantly associated with subsequent changes in BMD. However, there were too few of these studies to draw any firm conclusions. Studies assessing the association between changes in bone turnover markers with either biopsy results or fracture outcomes were uncommon. Two studies used biopsy and seven used fracture, and these gave some indication that changes in bone turnover markers may be significantly associated with changes in fracture risk; however, again, there were too few studies to draw any firm conclusions.

Overall, the results from the studies utilising correlation and regression analyses were inconsistent and inconclusive. This may be due to the considerable clinical heterogeneity across the included studies in terms of the definitions used to identify those with osteoporosis, patient populations recruited, the treatment regimens administered, and the type and timing of the tests being evaluated. Most of the included studies had small sample sizes, resulting in low statistical power to detect significant associations.

### **Test reliability and reproducibility**

Four studies reported signal to noise (S/N) ratios for a bone turnover marker in patients being treated with etidronate, teriparatide or raloxifene. Within-study comparisons showed that serum P1NP (sP1NP) had a higher S/N ratio than serum CTX (sCTX) at 25 weeks, and a higher S/N ratio than serum BALP (sBALP) at 6 months.

### **Cost-effectiveness**

No studies met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review of the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies.

### **Economic model**

Given that the review could not establish the clinical effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies, a decision-analytic model could not be produced and, consequently, an expected value of perfect information could not be undertaken to assess the value of future research.

To assist future developers of any decision-analytic model in investigating the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies, we undertook a scoping review of current modelling methods in related decision problems. We also discussed the gaps in the current evidence base that would be essential to address before any such cost-effectiveness analysis of bone marker monitoring regimens could be undertaken.

Of the modelling strategies identified, 12 modelled measures of adherence and one modelled treatment change. Ten of the models incorporated compliance as a binary variable, using a variety of cut-off points for what constituted compliance. Eleven models incorporated persistence, modelled as the percentage of patients initiating and subsequently discontinuing treatment at different time points. Only six studies modelled compliance, non-compliance and persistence separately, incorporating the different aspects of adherence. Some models included an estimate of primary non-adherence. The one model that incorporated treatment change allowed for switching to a second-line treatment if results of a bone turnover marker test during follow-up led to the conclusion that compliance or response to treatment was inadequate.

The key part of any future cost-effectiveness analysis of bone turnover marker tests for monitoring response to treatment for osteoporosis is accounting for test accuracy, the prognostic outcomes for true-positive, false-positive, true-negative and false-negative test results, and the effect of feeding back the results of bone turnover marker tests on patient adherence to treatment. These data were either absent completely, insufficient given the different tests and treatments, or applicable to populations with unrealistic adherence rates for clinical practice.

## **Discussion**

The systematic review of clinical effectiveness found no evidence evaluating the impact of treatment monitoring regimens that included a relevant bone turnover marker on treatment management decisions. The review identified limited data assessing the effect of bone turnover marker feedback on patient compliance, persistence and/or adherence to treatment, the results of which suggested that the positive feedback results encouraged patient persistence.

Most of the data relating to test accuracy were in the form of correlations between changes in bone turnover markers (usually between 1 month and 6 months of starting treatment) and subsequent changes in BMD (usually between 1 year and 3 years after the start of treatment). Treatment-induced changes in BMD account for a limited proportion of the observed reduction in fracture risk and, therefore, BMD is a poor surrogate for fracture risk; using BMD as a surrogate for the evaluation of the predictive accuracy of bone turnover markers to identify patients on treatment who remain at risk of fracture is inappropriate. In addition, results of correlation analyses are influenced by sample size: the greater the sample size, the more likely a correlation will be statistically significant from zero. Although there were a number of statistically significant correlations, these on the whole suggested weak correlations. These data, and the data from studies conducting multiple regression analyses, were further limited by the considerable between-study clinical heterogeneity in terms of the definitions of osteoporosis, patient populations, treatment regimens and the type and timing of tests being evaluated.

In terms of the evaluation of test reliability and reproducibility, some evidence was available that suggested sP1NP may have a greater S/N ratio than sBALP and sCTX at a short-term follow-up, but the data on this outcome were sparse and longer-term follow-up data absent.

The systematic review of cost-effectiveness identified no studies evaluating different treatment monitoring strategies, where BALP, P1NP, CTX or NTX was incorporated as part of one of the strategies, and there was insufficient evidence from the clinical review to develop a de novo decision-analytic model.

Overall, the evidence required to address the decision problem was lacking. The evidence that was available was heterogeneous and of poor quality. Consequently, it was impossible to draw any conclusion as to whether or not bone turnover markers were able to identify non-responders or predict fracture risk independently of BMD in patients receiving osteoporosis treatment. There are a number of uncertainties that remain in need of clarifying; these include:

- the ability of changes in bone turnover markers to identify treatment non-responders
- the ability of changes in bone turnover markers to impact on compliance, persistence and adherence to each of the treatments being evaluated
- the accuracy of changes in bone turnover markers to predict future fracture risk
- the ability of bone turnover markers to inform treatment change
- the most appropriate timing of the conduct of bone turnover marker testing; this may vary depending upon the treatment–test combination
- which bone turnover marker is superior in terms of its ability to identify treatment non-responder and predict fracture risks for monitoring specific osteoporosis treatments
- the reliability and reproducibility of bone turnover marker tests in patients receiving treatment for osteoporosis
- the most cost-effective monitoring regimen for patients being treated with bisphosphonates, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, teriparatide or denosumab.

## Conclusions

### *Implications for service provision*

The lack of evidence of clinical effectiveness and the heterogeneity and poor quality of the available evidence on the accuracy, reliability and reproducibility of bone turnover markers for monitoring response to osteoporosis treatment precluded the possibility of making any recommendations on the choice of bone turnover marker being used in routine clinical practice for its superiority to monitor osteoporosis treatment response. In addition, the evidence to support the use of bone turnover marker feedback results to improve patient adherence to osteoporosis treatment was not convincing.

### **Suggested research priorities**

In order to determine whether or not bone turnover marker monitoring improves treatment management decisions and ultimately impacts on patient outcomes in terms of reduced incidence of fracture, RCTs are required. The predictive accuracy of bone turnover markers for future fracture outcomes in patients receiving osteoporosis treatment could be investigated using prospective, long-term observational studies with large sample sizes. However, in view of the large number of potential patient population–treatment–test combinations, the most promising combinations would need to be identified in order to ensure the more costly and time-consuming studies, such as RCTs, focus on evaluating those strategies. Therefore, we consider the research priority to identify these promising treatment–test combinations. This can be achieved by either conducting small variability studies or initiating a patient registry to collect standardised data. The former would be quicker, easier and less costly, but the quality of the data would be poorer. Further, prior to establishing the latter it is likely that a more widespread use of bone turnover markers in clinical practice would be required. Once the most promising treatment–test combinations have been identified, well-designed RCTs can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of those monitoring regimens; this would include measuring outcomes such as the proportion of non-responders, adherence rates, treatment management decisions and fracture outcome. Data from these RCTs along with other sources can then be included in a decision-analytic model in order to investigate cost-effectiveness.

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# Chapter 1 Background

## Description of health problem

### *Osteoporosis*

Osteoporosis is a progressive systemic skeletal disease characterised by low bone mass and micro-architectural deterioration of bone tissue, with a consequent increase in bone fragility and susceptibility to fracture.<sup>1,2</sup>

### *Bone turnover (remodelling)*

Bone turnover is the process of resorption followed by replacement by new bone with little change in shape, and it occurs throughout a person's life. Osteoclasts break down bone (bone resorption), releasing the minerals, resulting in a transfer of calcium from bone fluid to the blood. The osteoclast attaches to the osteon (layers of compact bone tissue surrounding a central canal), and secretes collagenase and other enzymes. Calcium, magnesium, phosphate and products of collagen are released into the extracellular fluid as the osteoclasts tunnel into the mineralised bone. Osteoblasts are mature bone cells responsible for bone formation and ossification. They produce the organic portion of the matrix of bone tissue, osteoid, which is composed mainly of type I collagen, and are responsible for mineralisation of the osteoid matrix. Ossification fixes circulating calcium in its mineral form, removing it from the bloodstream. Repeated stress, such as weight-bearing exercise or bone healing, results in the bone thickening at the points of high stress.

Remodelling in adults repairs micro-damage to bone and plays a role in the regulation of calcium homeostasis. An imbalance in the bone remodelling processes in adults is thought to impact on bone strength as a result of reductions in bone volume and mineralisation, loss of trabeculae, deterioration of trabecular connectivity, and the formation of resorption cavities and trabecular perforations.<sup>3,4</sup> Therefore, an increase in bone turnover where resorption exceeds formation is not only inversely correlated with bone mineral density (BMD), but may also alter bone architecture and porosity, increasing the risk of fracture beyond that due to reduced BMD, and can therefore be an independent predictor of fracture risk.<sup>3-6</sup>

### *Diagnosis*

Osteoporosis causes no symptoms until a bone is broken. As osteoporosis is associated with low bone density, bone density scanning [using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA)] has become the most commonly used diagnostic technique.<sup>2</sup> There are accepted diagnostic criteria based on DXA: osteopenia (low bone mass) is present when the BMD is between 1 and 2.5 standard deviations below the mean value for young adults (BMD T-score of  $-1$  to  $-2.5$ ); osteoporosis is diagnosed when BMD is  $< 2.5$  standard deviations below young adults' (BMD T-score of  $< -2.5$ ).<sup>7</sup>

### *Risk of fracture*

A reduction in BMD results in the thinning of the trabeculae and an increase in the fragility of the bones.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, people diagnosed with osteoporosis have an increased risk of suffering low trauma (fragility) fractures. When BMD is measured by DXA, a reduction of 1 standard deviation in BMD is reportedly associated with a 50–150% increase in the risk of osteoporotic fracture.<sup>9</sup> Increasing age is one of the major risk factors for osteoporosis; after 35 years of age bone loss increases gradually as part of the natural ageing process.<sup>2</sup> By 75 years of age, approximately half of the population will have osteoporosis. In addition, there is an increased risk of falling which increases the risk of fracture; one in two women and one in five men over the age of 50 in the UK will fracture a bone, mainly as a result of skeletal fragility.<sup>2,10</sup> The most common fractures in people with osteoporosis are of the wrists, hips and spinal bones; these are most common in older people, but younger people can sometimes be affected.<sup>8,11</sup>

According to recent National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance [clinical guideline (CG) 146], assessment of the risk of fragility fractures should be considered in:<sup>12</sup>

- all women aged 65 years and over and in all men aged 75 years and over
- in women aged under 65 years and in men aged under 75 years in the presence of risk factors, for example:
  - previous fragility fracture
  - current use or frequent recent use of oral or systemic glucocorticoids
  - history of falls
  - family history of hip fracture
  - other causes of secondary osteoporosis
  - low body mass index (BMI) (< 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - smoking
  - alcohol intake of more than 14 units per week for women and more than 21 units per week for men.

An assessment tool for assessing fracture risk, FRAX<sup>®</sup>, has been developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>13</sup> The factors taken into account are age, gender, weight, height, previous fracture, parental history of hip fracture, smoking status, the use of oral glucocorticoid steroids, a diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, the presence of a disorder strongly associated with osteoporosis and alcohol consumption, with or without BMD as determined using DXA.<sup>12,14</sup>

### **Treatments for osteoporosis**

Diet and exercise can be modified to improve a person's fracture risk. Exercises considered best for people with osteoporosis are those that (1) are thought to have an effect on density and strength, such as weight-bearing exercises that cause force on the bones like jogging, stair climbing, walking briskly and resistance exercises, and (2) can reduce the risk of falling, such as balance training (e.g. tai chi), leg strengthening and flexibility training (e.g. yoga). Exercises that people with osteoporosis are advised to avoid are those that might increase the risk of falling, those that involve twisting the spine or bending from the waist, high-impact activities such as high-intensity aerobics or jumping and the use of excessive weight during resistance exercise. A diet containing foods rich in calcium and vitamin D (vitamin D is required for the absorption of calcium) or the use of calcium and vitamin D supplements can also improve bone strength.

The most common medical therapies for osteoporosis are bisphosphonate drugs. Bisphosphonates inhibit the activity of mature osteoclasts and reduce the rate of resorption.<sup>4</sup> The most commonly prescribed bisphosphonate is generic alendronate; other bisphosphonates include etidronate, risedronate (now available in generic form), ibandronate, and zoledronate. The recommended dose of alendronate is one 70-mg tablet per week, rather than 10 mg daily as originally prescribed, to reduce the incidence of gastrointestinal adverse effects and increase adherence. A strict technique must be adhered to when taking oral bisphosphonates to ensure satisfactory absorption. They must be taken on an empty stomach first thing in the morning, while remaining upright to prevent reflux, at least 30 minutes before the first food, drink or other medication of the day. The tablet should be taken with plain water only; other drinks (including mineral water), food and some medicines are likely to reduce the absorption of bisphosphonates.<sup>15</sup> Intravenously administered bisphosphonates are available; the recommended doses are 3 mg 3-monthly of ibandronate, or 5 mg annually of zoledronate. Pamidronate is not licensed for the treatment of osteoporosis but has been widely used off-licence at a dose of 30 mg quarterly.

Other medical therapies available include:

- raloxifene (Evista<sup>®</sup>, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd): a selective oestrogen receptor modulator (SERM), which is a synthetic hormone that copies the effects of oestrogen on the bones

- strontium ranelate (Protelos<sup>®</sup>, Servier Laboratories Ltd): a strontium(II) salt of ranelic acid, which is a dual-action bone agent that stimulates new bone growth and reduces bone loss
- teriparatide (Forsteo<sup>®</sup>, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd): a recombinant form of parathyroid hormone (PTH 1–34) that helps regulate calcium levels and the activity of cells involved in bone formation
- denosumab (Prolia<sup>®</sup>, Amgen Ltd): a monoclonal antibody that targets the RANK ligand
- hormone replacement therapy (HRT): a mix of hormones (oestrogens, progesterone or progestins, and sometimes testosterone) prescribed to post-menopausal women (natural or surgically induced) to reduce the symptoms caused by reduced circulating oestrogen and progesterone. The risk of development and progression of osteoporosis can therefore be reduced by the maintenance of oestrogen levels.

### Burden of the disease on the NHS

Approximately 3 million people in the UK have osteoporosis, with about 20% of women aged 60–69 affected. There are thought to be about 230,000 osteoporotic fractures every year, with broken wrists, hips and spinal bones being the most common. Of the 60,000 people who suffer osteoporotic hip fractures each year, 15–20% are likely to die within a year from causes related to the fracture.<sup>2</sup>

As stated in *Diagnosis*, above, there are a range of treatments available for osteoporosis, and the costs of these vary (pamidronate has not been costed as it is not licensed for use in osteoporosis):<sup>16</sup>

- Generic sodium alendronate: a 28-tablet pack of 10-mg tablets is £1.44 (approximately £19 annually); a four-tablet pack of 70 mg for once-weekly administration is £1.10 (approximately £14 annually). Fosamax<sup>®</sup> (MSD) costs £23.12 for 28 10-mg tablets and £22.80 for four 70-mg once-weekly tablets.
- Generic sodium risedronate: a 28-tablet pack of 5-mg tablets is £17.99 (approximately £220 annually); a four-tablet pack of 35 mg for once-weekly administration is £19.12 (approximately £230 annually).
- Zoledronate: Zometa<sup>®</sup> (Novartis) costs £174.17 for 4 mg in 5 ml, and Aclasta<sup>®</sup> (Novartis) costs £253.38 for 5 mg in 100 ml – 5 mg administered once annually.
- Strontium ranelate (Protelos<sup>®</sup>, Servier) costs £25.60 for 28 sachets each containing 2 g of granules daily (approximately £330 annually).
- Denosumab (Prolia<sup>®</sup>, Amgen Ltd) costs £183.00 for 60 mg/ml in a 1-ml prefilled syringe – 60 mg administered 6-monthly (£366 annually).
- Raloxifene (Evista<sup>®</sup>, Daiichi Sankyo) costs £17.06 for 28, and £59.59 for 84, 60-mg tablets – 60 mg daily (approximately £220 annually).
- Teriparatide (Forteo<sup>®</sup>, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd) costs £271.88 for 250 µg/ml in a 3-ml pre-filled pen – 20 µg self-administered daily (approximately £3540 annually).

According to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), in 2005–6 in England there were 5759 consultations and 4034 admissions (2368 emergency) for osteoporosis with a pathological fracture, and a further 8725 consultations and 8313 admissions (716 emergency) without pathological fracture.<sup>17</sup> For surgical interventions for fractures of the spine and hip (not only those associated with osteoporosis), there were 809 consultations and 667 admissions (353 emergency) for fixations of spinal fractures (approximately 26% in patients 60 years and older), and 46,812 consultations and 46,191 admissions (1611 emergency) for primary total prosthetic replacement of hip joint [depending on method used, approximately 50% (not using cement) to 85% (using cement) 60 years and older].<sup>17</sup> Given the discrepancies in the numbers of hip replacements in the elderly and consultations of osteoporotic fractures, the incidence/consultation rate for osteoporosis may be underestimated. A recent report published by the Royal College of Physicians stated that only 32% (1933 out of 6083) of non-hip fracture and 67% (2324 out of 3484) of hip fracture patients had a clinical assessment for osteoporosis/fracture risk.<sup>18</sup> Osteoporosis reportedly costs the NHS and government £2.3B per year (£6M per day).<sup>2</sup>

### **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance**

NICE has produced a number of technology appraisals (TAs) and CGs that have some relevance to this area. Three relevant TAs have been published: TA160 (Osteoporosis – primary prevention; postmenopausal women),<sup>19</sup> TA161 (Osteoporosis – secondary prevention including strontium ranelate; postmenopausal women)<sup>20</sup> and TA204 (Osteoporotic fractures – denosumab).<sup>21</sup>

For the primary prevention of fractures, alendronate is recommended as the first-line treatment for most women at risk of fractures. Risedronate, etidronate and strontium ranelate are alternative treatments for post-menopausal women who cannot adhere to the required alendronate regimen, or those women with pre-specified combinations of T-score, age and number of independent clinical risk factors; strontium ranelate is not recommended as a first-line treatment for osteoporosis. Raloxifene is not a recommended treatment for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fragility fractures.<sup>19</sup> The recommendations for the secondary prevention of fractures are similar to those for primary prevention. The two differences are that (1) strontium ranelate can be used as a first-line treatment and (2) raloxifene is recommended as an alternative treatment for post-menopausal women who cannot adhere to alendronate, or in women with pre-specified combinations of T-score, age and number of independent clinical risk factors.<sup>20</sup> Denosumab has now also been added to the list of alternative second-line treatments for the primary or secondary prevention of fractures.<sup>21</sup>

There are also four potentially relevant CGs available that deal with the management of independent risk factors for fracture: CG146 (Osteoporosis fragility fracture),<sup>12</sup> CG21 (Falls: the assessment and prevention of falls in older people),<sup>22</sup> CG59 (Osteoarthritis: the care and management of osteoarthritis in adults)<sup>23</sup> and CG79 (Rheumatoid arthritis: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults).<sup>24</sup>

This review will focus on patients being treated for osteoporosis with any of bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, teriparatide or denosumab.

## **Description of the technologies under assessment**

### **Bone turnover markers**

Biochemical markers of bone turnover are used to monitor treatment response and may prove to be more useful than serial BMD measurements as they are non-invasive, relatively cheap compared with DXA, and there is an increased availability of auto-analysers in clinical chemistry laboratories.

### **Formation markers (detects products from the action of osteoblasts)**

Bone-specific alkaline phosphatase (BALP): serum alkaline phosphatase has several dimeric isoforms that originate from a range of tissues (liver, bone, intestine, spleen, kidney and placenta), with approximately 40–50% of the total alkaline phosphatase activity arising from the bone as a result of osteoblast activity.<sup>25</sup> The bone-specific isoform can be detected with immunoassays using monoclonal antibodies.<sup>26,27</sup> There are two main types of assay to measure BALP: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA; measures BALP enzyme activity) and immunoradiometric assay (IRMA; measures BALP in protein mass units).<sup>28</sup> The least significant change between a sample taken at baseline to 3 months after commencement of treatment has been reported as 30%.<sup>27</sup> It has been suggested that BALP testing should occur at baseline before starting osteoporosis therapy and again at 3 to 6 months after commencement of therapy.<sup>29</sup>

Procollagen type 1 amino-terminal propeptide (P1NP): anti-P1NP antibodies are used to detect the trimeric structure of P1NP by ELISA or radioimmunoassay. It has been claimed that P1NP is a more sensitive marker of bone formation rate than other available formation markers, and therefore is particularly useful for monitoring bone formation therapies and antiresorptive therapies.<sup>26,29</sup> As with BALP, it is recommended that the test be performed at baseline before starting osteoporosis therapy and again 3–6 months later.<sup>29</sup>

Osteocalcin (or bone gla protein): a small protein, detected using ELISA or radioimmunoassay that is rapidly degraded in the serum so that intact and fragmented segments from osteoblast activity coexist in the serum. Advantages of osteocalcin have been reported as being its tissue specificity, wide availability, and relatively low within-person variation; however, heterogeneity of the fragments in the serum is thought to limit its use.<sup>26</sup> Osteocalcin is a marker of corticosteroid effects on osteoblasts and is decreased in patients receiving acute high-dose steroids, a risk factor for osteoporosis;<sup>27</sup> osteocalcin may also be affected by use of warfarin.<sup>29</sup> It is recommended that the test be performed at baseline before starting osteoporosis therapy and again 3–6 months later.<sup>29</sup>

Procollagen type 1 carboxy-terminal propeptide (P1CP): the carboxy-terminal propeptide cleaved during the assembly of collagen fibres, and detected using ELISA or radioimmunoassay.<sup>30</sup>

### Resorption markers (detects products from the action of osteoclasts)

Carboxy-terminal telopeptide cross-linked type 1 collagen (CTX): peptide fragments from the carboxy-terminal end of type 1 collagen produced during osteoclastic resorption and detected in the urine or serum using ELISA.<sup>29</sup>

Type I collagen amino-terminal telopeptide (NTX): peptide fragments from the amino terminal end of type 1 collagen produced during osteoclastic resorption and detected in the urine or serum with competitive inhibition ELISA or a chemiluminescence assay.<sup>27,29</sup> The least significant change between samples taken at 3-month intervals is 50%. Suppression of NTX by more than 50% from baseline has been reported as being expected as early as 3 months after commencement of bisphosphonate therapy, but routine follow-up may be left to 6 months post therapy.<sup>27</sup> It has been recommended that the test be performed at baseline before starting osteoporosis therapy and again 3 to 6 months later.<sup>29</sup>

Urine deoxypyridinoline: derived only from bone matrix degradation, released from type I collagen. Excretion of deoxypyridinoline expressed as ratio to creatinine excretion. Urine deoxypyridinoline is detected by high-performance liquid chromatography or competitive ELISA.<sup>27</sup> Increases of between two and three times the upper limits of normal have been reported in people with osteoporosis, primary hyperparathyroidism, osteomalacia, thyrotoxicosis and several inflammatory conditions, though the biggest increases (four or more times upper limit of normal) are seen in immobilisation, Paget's disease of bone and metastatic cancer.<sup>27</sup> A decrease in the pretreatment value of > 30% has been considered indicative of a good response in osteoporosis.<sup>27</sup>

The Supra-Regional Assay Service (SAS) is a UK-based service for the analysis and clinical interpretation of a wide range of specialised diagnostics tests; those offering BALP, uNTX, serum osteocalcin and urine deoxypyridinoline are listed on the SAS website.<sup>27</sup>

### Variability in bone turnover markers

Several factors can impact on the bone turnover marker levels, causing variability across samples, which can reduce repeatability and comparability, both within patients and between patients. These include specimen collection and storage;<sup>25,31–35</sup> differences between analytical methods used;<sup>32,34</sup> temporal variations (diurnal, menstrual, seasonal);<sup>25,31–35</sup> diet and fasting;<sup>36</sup> patient characteristics (age, gender or ethnicity);<sup>25,31,33,35</sup> concomitant medication other than osteoporosis medications [HRT, anabolic agents, glucocorticoids, anticonvulsants, gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonists or oral contraception];<sup>25,31</sup> and comorbid conditions (renal impairment, liver disease, diabetes, thyroid disease, osteomalacia, systematic inflammatory diseases, degenerative joint disease, conditions causing immobility, or eating disorders).<sup>25,31,33,35</sup>

Inpatient variability for serum markers is lower than for urinary markers.<sup>34</sup> Some tests are more accurate when monitoring the response to specific treatments (e.g. CTX with bisphosphonates). Some tests have the advantage of not requiring the patient to fast prior to sampling (e.g. P1NP), or are less affected by diurnal variations (P1NP and BALP), and/or have lower overall intraindividual variability (BALP) than other

bone turnover markers.<sup>37</sup> Each of these tests also has disadvantages: CTX has a large circadian rhythm, and therefore repeat sampling must be done at the same time of day, fasting is required prior to sampling, and the marker requires freezing soon after sampling as it can be unstable; BALP is affected by cross-reactivity with the liver form of alkaline phosphatase, limiting its use in patients with liver disease; and P1NP has a higher cost compared with other bone turnover markers.<sup>37</sup> Given the advantages that CTX, P1NP and BALP offer, and the availability of NTX, these are the bone turnover markers that will be investigated in the current review.

### *Use of bone turnover markers*

The use of bone turnover markers varies greatly across the UK, in terms of both the test used and the frequency of its measurement. Several factors will need to be considered when choosing the bone turnover marker to be used, not least the availability of the assay methods. Bone turnover markers have a number of potential uses, including:<sup>6,37</sup>

1. predicting bone loss
2. identifying people at risk of primary or secondary osteoporosis and fracture
3. predicting treatment response prior to commencement
4. monitoring the response to osteoporosis treatment; identifying non-responders, which will include those not adhering with osteoporosis treatment (including patients not taking the medication or not following the instructions for administration)
5. identifying oversuppression of bone turnover in patient on long-term osteoporosis therapy
6. monitoring of people who have been on long-term treatment, or shown signs of oversuppression, and are taking a 'treatment holiday'.

The main focus of this systematic review will be role 4: monitoring the response and non-response to osteoporosis therapy (and change in fracture risk).

### *Monitoring response to treatments for osteoporosis*

There is currently no standard practice for the monitoring of patients receiving treatment for osteoporosis. The options include the use of repeated DXA, repeated measures of bone turnover markers, clinical review, or a combination of these. The use of DXA to monitor the response to osteoporosis treatment has limitations. Firstly, detectable changes in bone density due to treatment can take up to 2 years to become apparent;<sup>38</sup> therefore, the identification of non-responders to treatment is delayed. Secondly, there is limited access to the technology and the test is relatively expensive (average £72 per scan). Thirdly, there is evidence that there is limited value in the regular monitoring of BMD in patients on bisphosphonate therapy.<sup>39,40</sup>

As stated earlier, the relationship between bone turnover and bone density and architecture means that the rate of bone turnover may be an independent predictor of fracture risk,<sup>3-6</sup> this can be measured using one or more of the bone turnover markers listed above. However, it is still unclear whether or not changes in bone turnover detected by bone turnover markers are reliable surrogate measures for improved bone density and architecture, and consequently accurate predictors of future fracture risk. Two studies have suggested that bone turnover markers can have independent predictive value in assessment of fracture risk.<sup>41</sup> If biochemical markers of bone turnover are reliable indicators of future fracture risk, their use may prove advantageous compared with serial BMD measurements, as not only are they non-invasive, relatively cheap compared with DXA, and the availability of auto-analysers in clinical chemistry laboratories is increasing, but a response to treatment can be detected much earlier than with DXA.

Changes in bone turnover rates have been detected in post-menopausal women within as early as 2 weeks after starting HRT,<sup>42</sup> although the peak accuracy of changes in bone turnover markers to predict fracture risk in response to osteoporosis treatment may be later than this, between 3 and 12 months after initiating treatment, depending on the treatment and bone turnover marker used.<sup>43-46</sup> The ability to identify non-responders early within the treatment can be beneficial for patients by allowing early changes in management strategy if deemed necessary. The definition of treatment success varies depending upon

the baseline risk of the patient being treated; in some patients a reduction in bone turnover would be considered a treatment success, but in others success may be a stabilisation of bone turnover. For all patients a continued increase in bone turnover rates would be considered a treatment failure. The definitions used throughout this project will reflect clinical practice and be based upon evidence for least clinical significant change.

There is a complex association between changes in bone turnover and fracture risk that is influenced by the treatment–bone turnover marker combination; the observed change in bone turnover markers will depend upon the treatment being administered. In studies of raloxifene, risedronate, alendronate and zoledronic acid, bone turnover markers have been reported as explaining between 28% and 77% of fracture risk reduction.<sup>47</sup>

Bisphosphonates are antiresorptive therapies, and therefore they reduce the rate of bone resorption. Bone resorption is closely coupled to bone formation; consequently, there is usually a subsequent reduction in the rate of bone formation. This results in a transient uncoupling of bone turnover, which leads to a small increase in BMD. This increase in BMD may account in part for the decrease in fracture risk, but the reduction in bone turnover may independently improve bone strength by improving bone architecture and porosity.<sup>48</sup> Both raloxifene and denosumab reduce bone resorption, and therefore act as antiresorptive therapies; decreases in both bone resorption markers and subsequently bone formation markers should be observed in treatment responders as with bisphosphonates.

Teriparatide causes a small, transient increase in serum calcium, mainly due to the stimulation of tubular reabsorption of calcium from the proximal kidney tubules and increased calcium absorption from the bowel, but in a small part by increasing bone resorption (hence chronically elevated PTH can deplete bone). However, intermittent administration of PTH (i.e. daily injections of teriparatide) activates osteoblasts more than osteoclasts, stimulating new bone formation and increasing BMD. Therefore, a positive response in bone formation markers would be expected in treatment responders, with a subsequent increase in bone resorption markers due to the coupling of the processes, the opposite response to that seen with antiresorptive therapies.

Strontium ranelate increases new bone formation as well as reducing bone resorption and is classed as a dual-action bone agent. These effects are more modest than those seen with anabolic and antiresorptive treatments, with smaller positive changes in bone formation and negative changes in bone resorption markers, respectively. However, strontium ranelate appears to lead to persistent uncoupling of bone turnover.

The interpretation of changes in bone turnover markers is also influenced by the type of sample used: serum or urine. The intraindividual variability is greater for urine markers, giving serum markers a better signal to noise (S/N) ratio;<sup>34</sup> the percentage change in a urinary biomarker needed to indicate a treatment response (least significant change) is greater than that required for a serum biomarker.

### Treatment non-response

Treatment non-response could have a number of causes, including non-compliance; non-persistence; an underlying, untreated cause of the osteoporosis; an inability to absorb the drug; and/or test error. The most common reasons are thought to be non-compliance, non-persistence, or both (non-adherence).

Adherence to osteoporosis treatment is known to be poor, particularly to bisphosphonates, which are often associated with gastrointestinal upset and sometimes oesophagitis.<sup>49</sup> According to the summary of product characteristics (SPC), gastrointestinal upset with alendronate is common (occurring in 1–10% of patients) and oesophagitis is rare (0.01–0.1% of patients).<sup>15</sup> The incidence of gastrointestinal side effects associated with osteoporosis treatments is thought to be higher than that specified in the SPC; NICE guidance states that up to one-third of post-menopausal women may experience some type of gastrointestinal upset.<sup>50,51</sup> The occurrence of more severe oesophageal complications reported in post-marketing surveillance has been

put down to taking alendronate with little or no water, lying down during or shortly after taking the tablet, continuing to take alendronate after the onset of symptoms, or pre-existing oesophageal disorders.<sup>49</sup> Patients are now given strict instructions on the technique for taking bisphosphonate drugs, as described previously. Adverse events have been reported in nearly 50% of patients; however, a 2006 Cochrane review showed no significant difference in gastrointestinal adverse events between bisphosphonates and placebo.<sup>52</sup> In addition to the potential for adverse events, bisphosphonates are difficult to absorb. Patients have to adhere to strict instructions on how to take oral preparations; if these are not followed, the effectiveness of the drug is likely to be reduced and gastrointestinal side effects are more likely to be experienced.<sup>15,53</sup>

Bone turnover markers can identify treatment non-responders, and therefore they may be a useful method for monitoring non-adherence with treatment, as this is a major reason for non-response.<sup>6</sup> Adherence to treatment can be improved with the introduction of treatment regimens that require less frequent administration of the medication,<sup>54-59</sup> and the availability of intravenously administered bisphosphonates.<sup>53,59</sup> The move to the use of intravenously administered treatment based on the results of the bone turnover markers could have cost implications; anaphylaxis could occur and, if experienced, it may require hospitalisation. Monitoring adherence through the use of bone turnover markers is not a main focus of the systematic review; however, where this information is reported it will be extracted and summarised.

### Cost of the technologies under assessment

In England, in 2010–11, DXA cost, on average, £72 per scan (range £45 to £85: Health Resource Group code RA15Z).<sup>60</sup> In comparison, a bone turnover marker assay can cost approximately £20 to £25; this includes administration and clinical interpretation costs as well as the cost of the reagents. P1NP had been reported as costing between £25 and £83 in 2007.<sup>61</sup>

### Summary

Bone turnover markers may be useful in monitoring the response of bone turnover to treatment regimens in patients with osteoporosis, and hence to identify patients who are non-responders. This in turn will allow changes in management or treatment strategies to be implemented in a timely manner to ensure maximum benefit to the patient. An evidence synthesis using systematic review methodology will be used to investigate potential uses of bone turnover markers and a decision-analytic model will be developed, if sufficient evidence is found, to establish clinical effectiveness.

## Chapter 2 Definition of decision problem

### Decision problem

In relation to the use of bone turnover markers for the monitoring of patients receiving osteoporosis treatments, the decision problem in clinical practice is: 'What is the clinical and cost-effectiveness of monitoring regimens that include at least one bone turnover marker, over and above monitoring regimens where a bone turnover marker is not used, and which, if any, bone turnover marker should be introduced into routine practice for the monitoring of response to osteoporosis treatments?'

### Overall aims and objectives of the assessment

The primary aims of the systematic review are to determine the clinical effectiveness, test accuracy, test reliability, test reproducibility and cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers in people being treated with any of bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide for osteoporosis.

The review of the clinical evidence will focus on three key clinical areas:

- Clinical effectiveness: how does bone turnover marker monitoring impact on the decision-making process and patient outcomes?
- Test accuracy: how well do changes in the level of bone turnover markers associate with changes in bone density, architecture and incidence of fracture?
- Test reliability and reproducibility: how much do the results of tests vary within and between patients?

If possible (i.e. if clinical effectiveness can be established) a decision model will be developed to determine the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for monitoring treatment response and making changes in patient management, addressing the question: 'Which monitoring regimen is the most cost-effective for informing treatment decisions?' The treatments considered in the model will be those considered in the clinical review and no treatment. If a decision model is produced, expected value of perfect information (EVPI) analyses can be conducted and will be used to determine the need for further research, identify the research questions critical to decision-making, and help inform the design of future studies.



# Chapter 3 Assessment of the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness evidence

## Methods for reviewing the evidence

The review was conducted systematically following the general principles recommended in the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination's guidance for undertaking reviews in health care<sup>62</sup> and the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) statement.<sup>63–65</sup>

### Identification of studies

The screening of titles and abstracts was conducted by two independent reviewers. All potentially relevant studies were retrieved where available, and two independent reviewers applied the inclusion criteria to the full papers. Disagreements were resolved by team discussion. Where consensus could not be reached at the title and abstract stage, the full paper was ordered. Inclusion was not restricted by language or date of publication. Abstracts were included if no additional information was available and there were sufficient outcome data to extract.

### Search strategy

The aim of the literature searches was to systematically identify studies on the effectiveness, test accuracy, test reliability, test reproducibility and cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers in people being treated for osteoporosis. Search terms were identified by scanning key papers identified at the beginning of the project, through discussion with the review team and through the use of database thesauri. The creation of the search strategy was an iterative process originally using the MEDLINE database and then adapted as appropriate to the other sources searched.

The base search strategy included the following components:

1. bone turnover marker terms  
AND
2. osteoporosis terms  
AND
3. intervention terms.

Sources of information were identified by an information specialist with input from the project team. The following databases were searched without language or date restrictions to identify primary studies, relevant reviews and economic studies:

- Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) (via EBSCOhost 1982 to 4 March 2012)
- The Cochrane Library (Issue 2 of 12 February 2012), which includes:  
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews  
Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)  
Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials  
NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)  
Health Technology Assessment Database
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index – Science (via Web of Knowledge 1990 to March 2012)
- EconLit (via OvidSP 1961 to February 2012)

- EMBASE (via OvidSP 1974 to 6 March 2012)
- Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED) (via website at [www.cochrane.org/intranet/resources-databases/health-economics-evaluation-database-heed](http://www.cochrane.org/intranet/resources-databases/health-economics-evaluation-database-heed) to March 2012)
- MEDLINE and MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations (via OvidSP 1946 to February week 4 2012)
- Science Citation Index Expanded (via Web of Knowledge 1899 to March 2012)
- IDEAS Database – a RePEc service hosted by the Economic Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, MO, USA (available online at <http://ideas.repec.org/>, searched to 15 May 2012).

### **Ongoing research**

Ongoing studies were identified from the following databases:

- ClinicalTrials.gov (via website at [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) to March 2012)
- ControlledTrials.com (via website at <http://controlled-trials.com> to March 2012)
- Paid Clinical Trials (via website at [www.paidclinicaltrials.org](http://www.paidclinicaltrials.org) to May 2012).

### **Other sources**

The reference lists of included papers and relevant reviews were assessed for additional relevant studies. Where necessary, authors of eligible studies were contacted for further information and experts in the field were contacted to see if they had access to further material. We also hand-searched (in May 2012) the contents pages for the previous 12 months of three relevant journals that were the source of a large proportion of identified studies (*Osteoporosis International*, *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research* and *Bone*) as these recent issues may be poorly indexed in the electronic databases.

The websites of the following organisations were also searched in May 2012 for information on relevant trials and other research:

- Eli Lilly and Company: [www.lilly.com/](http://www.lilly.com/)
- GlaxoSmithKline: [www.gsk.com/](http://www.gsk.com/)
- Novartis: [www.novartis.com/](http://www.novartis.com/)
- Nycomed: [www.nycomed.com/](http://www.nycomed.com/)
- Procter & Gamble: [www.pg.com/](http://www.pg.com/)
- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA): [www.fda.gov/](http://www.fda.gov/)
  - FDA website search included specific searches of:
    - Office for Women's Health (OWH): Research Science Program Awards: osteoporosis section
    - Publications based on OWH projects: osteoporosis section
    - Medical devices section.

The total number of records found after deduplication was 4002. Records were managed within an EndNote library (EndNote version X3, Thomson Reuters, CA, USA). The full search strategies for each database searched are provided in *Appendix 1*.

### **Inclusion and exclusion criteria**

#### **Index tests being evaluated**

The review evaluated four bone turnover marker tests, two serum bone formation markers (sP1NP and sBALP), and two bone resorption markers that can be measured in either the serum or urine (s/uCTX and s/uNTX).

## Population

Studies eligible for inclusion were those in adults (> 18 years of age) either:

- receiving any of bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures, regardless of the baseline pathology; or
- in any high-risk group being treated with any of bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fractures.

## Study designs

### *Effectiveness*

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of any size, where patients are randomised to a standard monitoring regimen (with or without DXA) or to a standard monitoring regimen with additional bone turnover marker monitoring. Studies reporting the impact of bone turnover marker test results on the decision-making process for management of osteoporosis, that also reported the subsequent rate of fracture in the population being assessed, were also sought ('Decision studies'). Studies assessing the effectiveness of treatments for osteoporosis using changes in bone turnover markers solely as an outcome were excluded.

### *Test accuracy*

Studies comparing the results of bone turnover marker tests with the results of bone biopsy or a composite reference standard of DXA and subsequent fracture outcome were included. Given the nature of the review question, we believe it unlikely that such studies would be available, so in addition we included prospective studies that measured the association between bone turnover and bone density, biopsy results and/or fracture rates, and that reported a correlation coefficient for this association. Prospective studies that evaluated changes in bone turnover markers in patients receiving one of the specified osteoporosis treatments, that provided sufficient data to produce a measure of the risk of fracture, or that reported the results of multivariate regression analyses in which a bone turnover marker of interest is an independent variable, were also eligible for inclusion. Prognostic studies using a bone turnover marker to identify patients at risk of osteoporosis and fracture at baseline, prior to commencing treatment, were excluded, as were studies that included fewer than 20 patients, meeting the population inclusion criteria, in analyses of outcomes applicable to this review.

### *Reliability and reproducibility*

Prospective controlled studies of serial bone turnover marker measurements that reported a measure of within- and/or between-patient variability in patients receiving a treatment being evaluated in this review were included. Inclusion was restricted to studies that included at least 20 patients in at least one analysis of interest.

### *Economic evaluation*

Full economic evaluations meeting the population and intervention inclusion criteria. A full economic evaluation was defined as any study in which a comparison of two or more relevant alternatives was undertaken with costs and outcomes examined separately for each alternative.

## Outcomes

### *Effectiveness*

Randomised controlled trials and decision studies reporting either change in patient management strategies, the incidence of fracture and/or treatment adherence rates were included.

### *Test accuracy*

Studies had to report either:

- estimates of diagnostic accuracy, or sufficient data for these to be calculated
- a correlation coefficient, or sufficient data for this to be calculated, for the association between a bone turnover marker and bone density and/or the incidence of fracture

- the risk/incidence of fracture associated with the bone turnover marker test results
- at least a  $p$ -value for a bone turnover marker of interest that is used as an independent variable in a multivariate regression.

### ***Reliability and reproducibility***

Studies reporting a measure for intra- and/or interpatient variability in bone turnover marker test results were included.

### ***Economic evaluation***

Study inclusion was not restricted by outcome.

### ***Data extraction strategy***

Clinical data extraction was conducted by one reviewer using a standardised data extraction form and checked by a second reviewer. Discrepancies were resolved by discussion, with involvement of a third reviewer when necessary. Attempts were made to contact authors for missing data. Data from multiple publications of the same study were extracted and reported as a single study. Where applicable and available, extraction included data on study details (e.g. study/EndNote identifier, author, year, country, setting, number of participants and duration of follow-up), patient characteristics (e.g. age, gender, duration of osteoporosis, risk group, concomitant renal/liver disease; baseline bone turnover marker levels and BMD), details of intervention (serum or urine; sample collection details; pre-sampling preparations/restrictions; sample storage details; assay used; adjustments for creatinine excretion for urinary markers; delay between sample collection and assay; single/serial measures; intra- and interassay coefficients of variation; value for least significant change), study quality, and reported outcomes as specified above.

Economic data extraction was planned on the comparators, study population, main analytic approaches (e.g. patient-level analysis/decision-analytic modelling), primary outcome specified for the economic analysis, details of adjustment for QoL, direct costs (medical and non-medical) and productivity costs, estimates of incremental cost-effectiveness and approaches to quantifying decision uncertainty (e.g. deterministic/probabilistic sensitivity analysis).

### ***Critical appraisal strategy***

The quality of the individual studies was assessed at the study level by one reviewer and independently checked by a second; disagreements were resolved by consensus. The quality of included studies was assessed using relevant criteria suitable for the study design selected from standard checklists for RCTs, observational studies and economic evaluations;<sup>62,66–68</sup> topic-specific quality issues were incorporated where necessary (see *Appendix 2* for details and guidance for completion).

### ***Methods of data synthesis***

Key study characteristics, patient outcomes and study quality were summarised in a narrative and tables. Meta-analyses suitable to the clinical data extracted were planned to estimate a summary measure of effect when sufficient numbers of comparable studies were available for an outcome. Given the substantial heterogeneity across the studies, this was not possible. It was also not possible to investigate the potential sources of heterogeneity that were specified in the protocol, as insufficient numbers of studies similar in other population, intervention and methodological characteristics were identified. The analyses planned were:

- investigation of potential subgroups of interest where sufficient data are available; for example, post-menopausal women (overall and for specific age ranges if data are available), elderly, skeletal site (hip, spine or wrist), and glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis
- sensitivity analyses conducted, where appropriate, to investigate potential sources of heterogeneity such as study quality, and differences in sample acquisition, storage and assay methods.

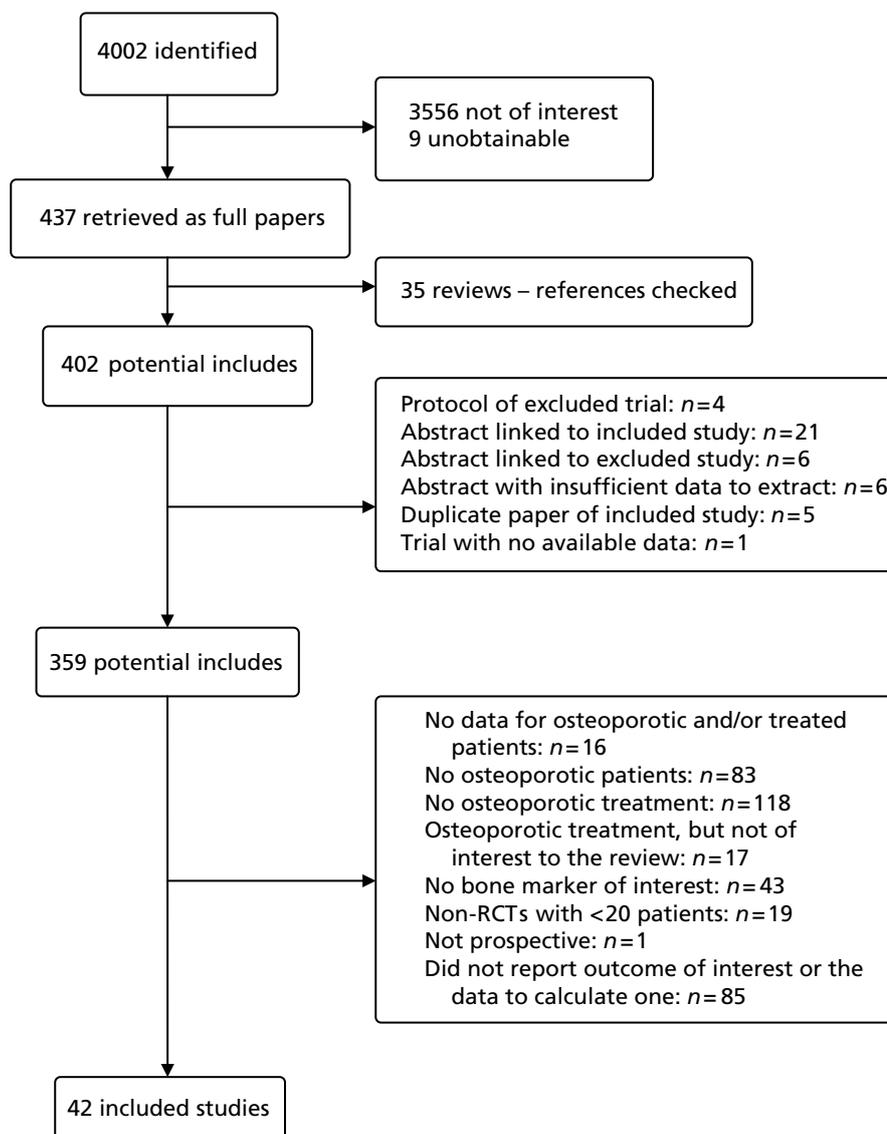
A narrative synthesis of the methods and results of the cost-effectiveness studies was planned.

## Results of the evaluation of clinical effectiveness

### Quantity and overall quality of research available

As a result of the electronic and hand searching, 4002 papers were identified for initial screening. Of these, 437 were retrieved as full papers; 35 were reviews that underwent screening of their bibliographies.<sup>5,6,11,15,34,47,50,69–96</sup> Sixteen of the full papers were published in languages other than English.<sup>37,52,74,76,79,81,95,97–105</sup> Nineteen studies had duplicate publications; where this was the case<sup>14,40,42,43,56,103,104,106–144</sup> one paper was allocated as the primary publication (full paper if the duplicate was an abstract or letter; the published paper if the duplicate comprised data from the manufacturer's online trials database, the most recent publication, or the paper published in English) and used as the citation for the study throughout the review;<sup>14,40,42,43,56,106,131–140,142,143</sup> relevant data were extracted from all publications where applicable. After full-paper screening, 42 studies (across 70 publications) met the inclusion criteria for the review of clinical effectiveness; the flow of studies through the review is given in *Figure 1* (some of the studies were excluded for more than one reason). A list of excluded studies with the reasons for exclusion is given in *Appendix 3*.

The majority of the studies were conducted primarily, or entirely, in post-menopausal women; only four studies reported including men.<sup>14,99,145,146</sup> Where reported, the mean age ranged from 56.1 to 73.9 years.



**FIGURE 1** Flow of studies through the review.

The definition used for the diagnosis of osteoporosis differed across studies; the definition was not provided in nine studies.<sup>106,133,135,143,145,147-150</sup> Most of the included studies were small, with the number of participants ranging from 22 to 3105 where reported (two studies did not report the number recruited<sup>40,151</sup>); 21 studies had fewer than 100 participants.<sup>41,43,44,58,99,106,135,136,145,147,150,152-160</sup> A summary of study characteristics is given in *Table 1*; full data extraction tables are provided in *Appendix 4*.

**TABLE 1** Summary of study characteristics

Study	Population and treatments	Interventions
Armstrong (2007), <sup>145</sup> UK Dates NR Abstract	Definition OP: NR  Alendronate or risedronate; no details <i>n</i> = 46; <i>n</i> with OP = 46 <i>n</i> male = 6; <i>n</i> PMW = NR Mean age: NR	sCTX; no details
Bauer (2004), <sup>139</sup> USA/Canada Started 1992 Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score $\leq -2.5$ ; vertebral fracture  Alendronate 5 mg/day increased to 10 mg/day at second annual visit for 2 years <i>n</i> = 3105; <i>n</i> with OP = 3105 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 3105 Mean age: NR	sP1NP; RIA sBALP; IRMA sCTX; ELISA Baseline; annually  DXA; hip; spine Annually
Bjarnason (2001), <sup>151</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/FN $\leq -2.5$  Raloxifene 60 or 120 mg/day <i>n</i> = NR; <i>n</i> male = 0 Mean age: NR	sBALP; IRMA uCTX; ELISA Baseline; 6, 12, 18, 24, 36 months  DXA; FN; LS (L1-L4) Baseline; 12, 24 months
Blumsohn (2011), <sup>42</sup> Western Europe Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip/FN $\leq -2.5 + \geq 1$ OP fracture past 3 years  Teriparatide 20 $\mu$ g/day for 1 or 2 years <i>n</i> = 758; <i>n</i> with OP = 758 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 758 Mean age: 69.8 years	sP1NP; ECL sBALP; chemiluminescence Baseline; 6 months  DXA; FN; LS (L1-L4); total hip Baseline; 6, 12, 18, 24 months
Bruyere (2010), <sup>161</sup> Western Europe (RCTs multinational) Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score $\leq -2.5 + \geq 1$ risk factor  Strontium ranelate 2 g/day for NR <i>n</i> = 2373; <i>n</i> with OP = 2373 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 2373 Mean age: 73.9 years	sBALP; IRMA sCTX; ELISA uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 3 months  DXA; LS (L2-L4) Baseline; every 6 months
Burshell (2010), <sup>14</sup> USA/Canada Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -1.0 + \geq 1$ OP fracture; T-score at LS/hip $\leq -2.0$  Alendronate 10 mg/day for at least 18 months <i>n</i> = 77; <i>n</i> with OP = 77 <i>n</i> male = 17; <i>n</i> PMW = 50 Mean age: 60.6 years  Teriparatide 20 $\mu$ g/day for at least 18 months <i>n</i> = 80; <i>n</i> with OP = 80 <i>n</i> male = 13; <i>n</i> PMW = 41 Mean age: 56.1 years	sP1NP; RIA sBALP; IRMA sCTX; ELISA Baseline; 1, 6, 18 months  DXA; FN; LS Baseline; 6, 12, 18 months
Chen (2005), <sup>140</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -1.0 + \geq 1$ OP fracture; one moderate or two mild vertebral fractures	sP1NP; RIA Baseline; 3 months

TABLE 1 Summary of study characteristics (continued)

Study	Population and treatments	Interventions
	Teriparatide 20 µg/day for median 19 months <i>n</i> = 541; <i>n</i> with OP = 541 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 541 Mean age: NR	sBALP; IRMA uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 1, 3, 6, 12 months; study end
	Teriparatide 40 µg/day for median 19 months <i>n</i> = 552; <i>n</i> with OP = 552 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 552 Mean age: NR	DXA; FN; LS Baseline; 12, 18 months
Clowes (2003), <sup>147</sup> UK Dates NR Abstract	Definition OP: NR  Raloxifene 60 mg/day for NR <i>n</i> = 22; <i>n</i> with OP = 22 <i>n</i> male = NR; <i>n</i> PMW = NR Mean age: NR	sP1NP; assay method NR sCTX; ECL Baseline; 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 25 weeks
Delmas (2007), <sup>56</sup> multinational 1999 to 2002 Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip ≤ -2.5  Risedronate 5 mg/day for 1 year <i>n</i> = 2382; <i>n</i> with OP = 2382 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 2382 Mean age: NR	uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 10, 22 weeks  BM feedback; 13, 25 weeks <i>n</i> = 1189 Mean age: 71.1  No BM feedback <i>n</i> = 1113 Mean age: 71.5 years
Delmas (2009), <sup>40</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score ≤ -1.5 + one moderate or two mild vertebral fractures; T-score LS/hip ≤ -2.5  Zoledronate 5 mg/year for 3 years <i>n</i> = NR; <i>n</i> male = 0 Mean age: NR	sCTX; ECL sP1NP; ECL sBALP; ELISA Baseline; 6, 12, 18 months; 1, 3, 6, 12 months after third infusion  DXA; FN Baseline; 6, 12, 24, 36 months
Dobnig (2005), <sup>152</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: one moderate or two mild vertebral fractures; T-score LS/hip ≤ -1.0 + ≥ 1 OP fracture  Teriparatide 20 or 40 µg/day for 17 to 22 months <i>n</i> = 36; <i>n</i> with OP = 36 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 36 Mean age: 67.9 years	sBALP; IRMA uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 1, 3, 6, 12 months; study end  Biopsy; Iliac crest Baseline; 12 months (13 patients); study end (23 patients)
Dobnig (2006), <sup>153</sup> western Europe Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip ≤ -2.5  Alendronate 10 mg/day or risedronate 5 mg/day <i>n</i> = 37; <i>n</i> with OP = 37 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 37 Mean age: 69 years	sCTX; ELISA Baseline; 2, 6, 12 months  DXA; FN Baseline; 12 months
Eastell (2003), <sup>137</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: two vertebral fractures; one vertebral fracture and T-score < -2  Risedronate 5 mg/day for 3 years <i>n</i> = 358; <i>n</i> with OP = 358 <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> PMW = 358 Mean age: 70 years	uNTX; chemiluminescence uCTX; ELISA Baseline; 3, 6 months  DXA; FN; LS (L1-L4) Baseline; 12, 36 months

continued

TABLE 1 Summary of study characteristics (continued)

Study	Population and treatments	Interventions
Eastell (2011), <sup>43</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Denosumab 60 mg every 6 months for 3 years $n = 96$ ; $n$ with OP = 96 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 96 Mean age: 72.3 years	sCTX; ELISA sP1NP; RIA sBALP; chemiluminescence Baseline; 1, 6, 12, 24, 36 months DXA; hip; LS Baseline; 12, 24, 36 months
Garnero (2008), <sup>41</sup> USA/Canada Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.0$ + 1 risk factor; T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Alendronate 10 mg/day for 3 months $n = 60$ ; $n$ with OP = 60 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 60 Mean age: 70.7 years	sP1NP (intact); RIA sP1NP (total); ECL sCTX; ECL Baseline; 3 months
Heaney (2011), <sup>162</sup> USA/Canada Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -1.0$ + $\geq 1$ OP fracture  Teriparatide 20 $\mu$ g/day $n = 203$ ; $n$ with OP = 203 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 203 Mean age: 70 years	uNTX; Chemiluminescence Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months  DXA; hip; LS Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months
Hochberg (2010), <sup>163</sup> USA/Canada Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Ibandronate 150 mg monthly for 1 year $n = 323$ ; $n$ with OP = 323 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 323 Mean age: 65.8 years	sCTX; ECL Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months  DXA; FN; LS; total hip Baseline; 12 months
Imai (2009), <sup>136</sup> Asia Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: LS BMD $\leq 70\%$ YAM; vertebral fracture  Alendronate 5 mg/day for 1 year $n = 37$ ; $n$ with OP = 37 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 37 Mean age: 76.5 years	uNTX; assay method NR Baseline; 3 months  DXA; LS (L2–L4); total hip Baseline; 6, 12 months
Ishijima (2009), <sup>154</sup> Asia Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: LS BMD $\leq 70\%$ YAM; LS BMD $\leq 80\%$ YAM + $\geq 1$ fracture  Alendronate 5 mg/day for 6 months $n = 45$ ; $n$ with OP = 45 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 45 Mean age: 70.2 years	uNTX; ELISA sBALP; EIA Baseline; 6 months  DXA; LS (L2–L4) Baseline; 6 months
Iwamoto (2004), <sup>155</sup> Asia Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: LS BMD $\leq 70\%$ YAM; LS BMD $\leq 80\%$ YAM + $\geq 1$ fracture  Alendronate 5 mg/day for 12 months $n = 85$ ; $n$ with OP = 85 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 85 Mean age: 72.2 years	uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 6, 12 months  DXA; LS Baseline; 12 months
Iwamoto (2005), <sup>131</sup> Asia 2002 to 2004 Full published paper	Definition of OP: LS BMD $\leq 70\%$ YAM; LS BMD $\leq 80\%$ YAM + $\geq 1$ fracture  Alendronate 5 mg/day for 1 year $n = 132$ ; $n$ with OP = 132 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 132 Mean age: 71.9 years	uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months  DXA; LS Baseline; 12 months

TABLE 1 Summary of study characteristics (continued)

Study	Population and treatments	Interventions
Kim (2005), <sup>44</sup> Asia Dates NR Full published paper	Definition of OP: T-score $\leq 2.5$ SD below normal mean for Korean PMW at LS	uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 3, 6 months
	Alendronate 10 mg/day for 1 year $n = 50$ ; $n$ with OP = 50 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 50 Mean age: 60.3 years	DXA; FN; LS (L1–L4) Baseline; 12 months
Kitatani (2003), <sup>156</sup> Asia Dates NR Full published paper	Definition of OP: LS BMD $\leq 70\%$ YAM	sBALP; EIA Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months
	Etidronate; 200 mg/day for 98 weeks; 2 weeks with drug followed by 10 weeks without $n = 32$ ; $n$ with OP = 32 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 32 Mean age: 63.3 years	DXA; LS (L2–L4) Baseline; 6, 12, 18, 24 months
	Etidronate; 400 mg/day for 98 weeks; 2 weeks with drug followed by 10 weeks without $n = 31$ ; $n$ with OP = 31 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 31 Mean age: 64.8 years	
Kung (2009), <sup>133</sup> Asia Dates NR Manufacturer's trial database/full paper	Definition OP: NR	sCTX; assay method NR Baseline; 3, 6 months
	Ibandronate 150 mg monthly for 12 months $n = 596$ ; $n$ with OP = 596 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 596 Mean age: NR	BM feedback; 3 months $n = 300$ Mean age: 66.3 years
		No BM feedback $n = 296$ Mean age: 65.6 years
Kyd (1998), <sup>157</sup> UK Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/FN $\leq -2.5$	sBALP-I; IRMA sBALP-E; ICEA Baseline; 3 months
	Alendronate 10 mg/day for 1 year $n = 35$ ; $n$ with OP = 35 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 35 Median age: 67 years	DXA; FN; spine Baseline; 12 months
Kyd (1999), <sup>158</sup> UK Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/FN $\leq -2.5$	uNTX; ELISA sCTX; ELISA Baseline; 3, 6 months
	Alendronate 10 mg/day for 1 year $n = 30$ ; $n$ with OP = 30 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 30 Mean age: NR	DXA; LS (L2–L4); FN Baseline; 12 months
Lane (2000), <sup>159</sup> USA/Canada Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score FN $\leq -2.5$ ; T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$	sBALP; EIA Baseline; 1, 3, 6, 9, 18, 24 months
	Teriparatide 40 $\mu$ g/day $n = 28$ ; $n$ with OP = 28 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 28 Mean age: NR	DXA; FN; hip; LS Baseline; 6, 12, 18, 24 months
Majima (2008), <sup>160</sup> Asia 2004 to 2007 Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$	sBALP; ELISA sNTX; ELISA Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months
	Raloxifene 60 mg/day for 12 months $n = 63$ ; $n$ with OP = 63 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 63 Mean age: 70.5 years	DXA; FN; LS; trochanter; radius; Ward's triangle Baseline; 6, 12 months

continued

TABLE 1 Summary of study characteristics (continued)

Study	Population and treatments	Interventions
Masaryk (2002), <sup>99</sup> eastern Europe Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Alendronate 10 mg/day for 12 months $n = 50$ ; $n$ with OP = 50 $n$ male = 50; $n$ PMW = 50 Mean age: 64.2 years	uNTX; ELISA Baseline; 3 months  DXA; FN; LS (L2–L4); TB; trochanter Baseline; 12 months
Miller (2008), <sup>38</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5 + \geq 1$ OP fracture  Teriparatide 20 $\mu$ g/day for 1 year $n = 317$ ; $n$ with OP = 317 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 317 Mean age: NR	sP1NP; ECL Baseline; 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12 months DXA; hip; LS Baseline; 6, 12 months
Moro-Alvarez (2010), <sup>135</sup> western Europe Dates NR Abstract	Definition OP: NR  Strontium ranelate 2 g/day for 12 to 24 months $n = 66$ ; $n$ with OP = 66 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 66 Mean age: 68 years	sCTX; ECL sP1NP; RIA Baseline; 12, 24 months  DXA; FN; LS (L2–L4); total hip Baseline; 24 months
Reginster (2004), <sup>132</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$ ; vertebral fracture  Raloxifene 60 mg/day for up to 3 years $n = 347$ ; $n$ with OP = 347 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 347 Mean age: 68.2 years  Raloxifene 120 mg/day for up to 3 years $n = 254$ ; $n$ with OP = 254 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 254 Mean age: 68 years	sBALP; IRMA uCTX; ELISA sP1NP; RIA Baseline; 6, 12, 24, 36 months
Reyes-Garcia (2010), <sup>58</sup> western Europe Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Alendronate 70 mg/week for 1 year $n = 46$ ; $n$ with OP = 46 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 46 Mean age: 64.7 years	sBALP; ELISA sCTX; ECL Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months  DXA; FN; LS (L2–L4) Baseline; 12 months
Roche (2007), <sup>143</sup> South America 2006 to 2007 Manufacturer's trial database	Definition OP: NR  Ibandronate 150 mg monthly for 6 months $n = 781$ ; $n$ with OP = 781 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 781 Mean age: NR	sCTX; assay method NR Baseline; 3 months (feedback arm); 6 months  BM feedback; 3 months $n =$ NR Mean age: NR  No BM feedback $n =$ NR Mean age: NR
Roche (2009), <sup>148</sup> multinational 2007 to 2008 Manufacturer's trial database	Definition OP: NR  Ibandronate 150 mg monthly for 6 months $n = 585$ ; $n$ with OP = 585 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 585 Mean age: NR	sCTX; assay method NR Baseline; 1.5 months  BM feedback; approx. 2 months No baseline details  No BM feedback No baseline details

TABLE 1 Summary of study characteristics (continued)

Study	Population and treatments	Interventions
Roche (2009), <sup>149</sup> western Europe Dates NR Manufacturer's trial database	Definition OP: NR  Ibandronate 150 mg monthly for 12 months $n = 596$ ; $n$ with OP = 596 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 596 Mean age: NR	sCTX; Assay method NR Baseline; 5 weeks; 3, 6, 12 months  BM feedback; after 5-week test $n = 250$ Mean age: NR  No BM feedback $n = 346$ Mean age: NR
Sarkar (2004) <sup>164</sup> Multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: at least two vertebral fractures; T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Raloxifene 60 or 120 mg/day $n = 1650$ ; $n$ with OP = 1650 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 1650 Mean age: 67.3 years	sBALP; IRMA Baseline; 6, 12, 24, 36 months  DXA; FN; LS (L2–L4) Annually
Shiraki (2011), <sup>142</sup> Asia 2000 to 2009 Full published paper	Definition OP: LS BMD $\leq 70\%$ YAM; LS BMD $\leq 80\%$ YAM + $\geq 1$ fracture  Alendronate 5 mg/day or 35 mg/week and risedronate 2.5 mg/day or 17.5 mg/week for mean 3.2 years $n = 251$ ; $n$ with OP = 251 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 251 Mean age: 70.5 years	uNTX; ELISA sBALP; EIA Baseline; 6 month intervals; study end  DXA; LS Baseline; every 6 months
Siddiqi (2010), <sup>106</sup> UK Dates NR Abstract	Definition OP: NR  Teriparatide for 18 months; dose NR $n = 28$ ; $n$ with OP = 28 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = NR Mean age: 74 years	sp1NP; assay method NR Baseline; 3 months  DXA; spine Baseline; 18 months
Stepan (2008), <sup>150</sup> multinational Dates NR Abstract	Definition OP: NR  Teriparatide 20 $\mu$ g/day for 24 months $n = 66$ ; $n$ with OP = 66 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 66 Mean age: 68 years	sCTX; assay method NR sp1NP; assay method NR Baseline; 1, 3, 6, 12, 24 months  Biopsy; iliac crest 24 months
Tsujimoto (2011), <sup>146</sup> Asia Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: LS BMD $\leq 80\%$ YAM + $\geq 1$ fracture; BMD LS < 65% of YAM + $\geq 55$ ; BMD LS < 70% of YAM + $\geq 65$  Teriparatide 20 $\mu$ g/day for 12 months $n = 136$ ; $n$ with OP = 136 $n$ male = 9; $n$ PMW = 127 Mean age: 69.2 years	sp1NP; RIA sBALP; ostase assay (variant NR) sCTX; ELISA Baseline; 1 month; 3, 6, 12 months  DXA; FN; LS (L2–L4) Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months
Watts (2001), <sup>165</sup> multinational Dates NR Full published paper	Definition OP: T-score LS/hip $\leq -2.5$  Alendronate 10 mg/day for at least 1 year $n = 180$ ; $n$ with OP = 180 $n$ male = 0; $n$ PMW = 180 Mean age: NR	sBALP; EIA Baseline; 3, 6, 12 months  DXA; FN; LS (L1–L4); TB Baseline; 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, 36 months

ECL, electrochemiluminescence; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; FN, femoral neck; ICEA, immunocapture enzymatic assay; intact P1NP, measurement of the trimetric forms only; L1, L2, L4, lumbar vertebrae 1, 2, 4; LS, Lumbar spine;  $n$ , number of patients; NR, not reported; OP, osteoporosis; PMW, post-menopausal women; RIA, radioimmunoassay; total P1NP, measurement of the mono- and trimetric forms; TB, total body; YAM, young adult mean.

### Quantity and quality of the included randomised controlled trials

Of the 42 included studies, five were RCTs.<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup> Of these, one reported using an adequate method for randomisation and allocation concealment;<sup>56</sup> the methods were not reported for the other four RCTs.<sup>133,143,148,149</sup> As a result, the appropriateness of the control group in the four RCTs was also deemed to be unclear; however, given the limited information available, it is unlikely that the control group was not selected from the same population as the intervention group. Only one RCT recruited a representative osteoporotic patient population;<sup>148</sup> the others were conducted in a selected subgroup of post-menopausal women, restricted either by ethnicity<sup>133,143</sup> or by age.<sup>56,149</sup> Baseline comparability could be assessed in only two trials; groups were comparable.<sup>56,133</sup> Although blinding of patients and care givers is not feasible for these types of interventions, blinding of outcome assessors is; none of the RCTs reported blinding outcome assessors.<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup> Descriptions of the intervention details were considered adequate to allow replication in two RCTs.<sup>148,149</sup> None of the five RCTs reported the characteristics of the patients lost to follow-up,<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup> and only three reported reasons for the losses.<sup>56,133,148</sup> Three of the five reported using an intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis,<sup>143,148,149</sup> one used ITT for some analyses,<sup>133</sup> and one reported excluding patients who were randomised but did not return electronic monitors from the ITT population.<sup>56</sup> The imputation methods used for missing data were not reported for any of the RCTs.<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup> Four of the RCTs had a period of follow-up less than the 1 year considered by the authors of this review to be the minimum duration required to identify changes in treatment strategies and subsequent fracture risk;<sup>56,133,143,148</sup> however, none of the RCTs assessed either of these outcomes. Given the limitations of the included RCTs, all were considered to be at a high or uncertain risk of bias, and therefore of low quality. The full results of the quality assessment and the guidance used for its completion are given in *Appendix 2*.

### Quantity and quality of the included non-randomised studies

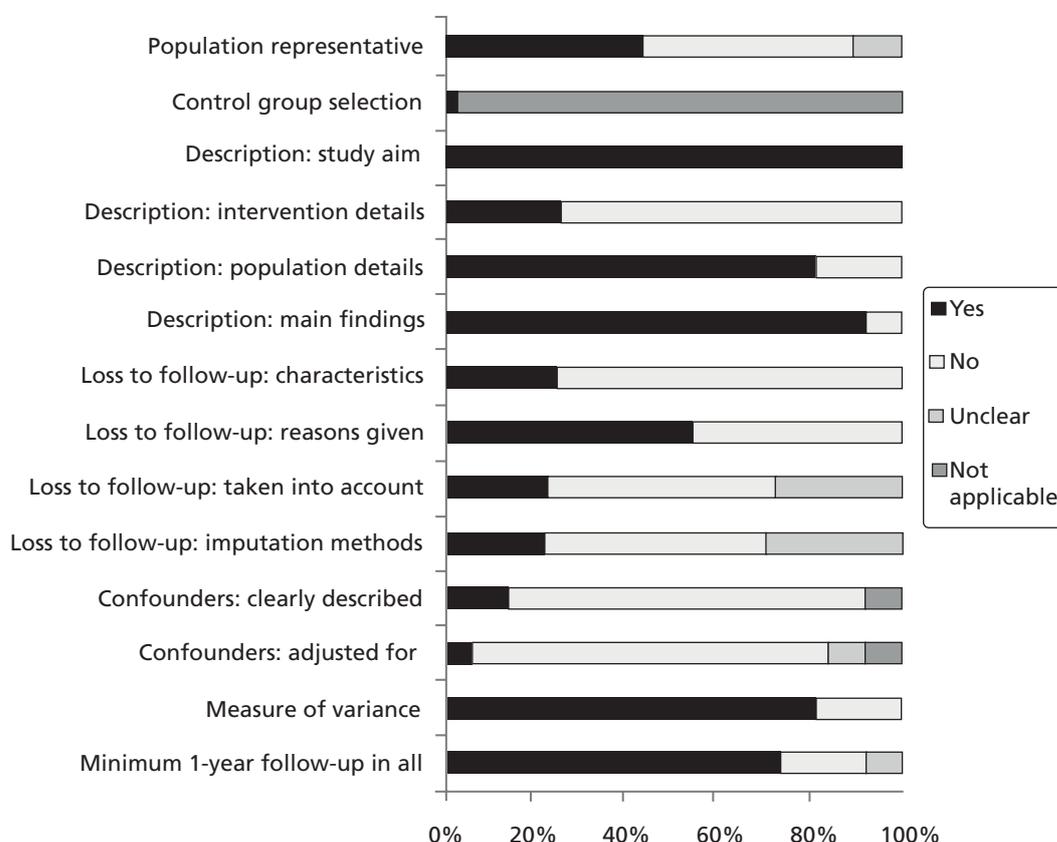
Of the 37 non-randomised studies, 21 were cohorts derived from the treatment arms of RCTs that compared a treatment regimen with either placebo or an alternative treatment.<sup>14,40–43,132,137,139,140,146,147,151–153,156,159,161–165</sup> The cohorts were derived either directly from reports of the RCT<sup>42,43,132,139,140,147,151–153,156,159,161</sup> or from a paper reporting a post hoc analysis of the RCT<sup>40,146,162–164</sup> or from a post hoc analysis of a subgroup of patients from the RCT.<sup>14,41,137,165</sup> These derived cohorts were assessed for quality as cohort studies rather than RCTs, as this is the manner in which they were used in the review.

The remaining 16 studies were 14 uncontrolled cohort studies<sup>58,99,106,131,135,136,142,145,150,154,155,157,158,160</sup> and two controlled cohort studies; one compared two groups with different prior treatment regimens,<sup>38</sup> and the other treated one group of women with HRT and the other with alendronate, although the groups seem to have been established after recruitment.<sup>44</sup> Single cohorts were derived from both controlled cohort studies. In the only truly controlled cohort study, the recruitment of the control group was considered appropriate and the groups comparable at baseline.<sup>38</sup> Of the 16 studies that were designed as cohort studies, only four appeared to use consecutive recruitment (though this was usually inferred, not explicitly stated),<sup>38,142,154,160</sup> one was not consecutive,<sup>136</sup> and recruitment was unclear in 11.<sup>44,58,99,106,131,135,145,150,155,157,158</sup>

Across the 37 non-randomised studies, 16 recruited a representative population,<sup>38,40,58,99,131,132,137,140,151,155,157,158,160,163–165</sup> 17 did not,<sup>14,41–44,106,136,139,142,146,152–154,156,159,161,162</sup> and in the remaining four, it was unclear whether or not the population was representative.<sup>135,145,147,150</sup> Only nine studies provided sufficient intervention details to allow repetition.<sup>38,41,58,153,155,157,158,160,163</sup> Ten studies had no loss to follow-up for the analyses they conducted (some were post hoc analyses of the specific group of patients with the required outcome measures).<sup>41,44,58,106,137,154,157,159,164,165</sup> The controlled cohort study used a 'modified' ITT analysis; seven patients were excluded from the ITT population, and last observation carried forward was used for the imputation of missing data for those in the modified ITT population.<sup>38</sup> The reasons were given for losses to follow-up in a further 11 studies.<sup>14,42,131,136,139,142,146,153,156,158,160</sup>

Confounders were clearly identified and described in five studies.<sup>137,151,154,155,161</sup> Although six studies adjusted for confounding factors in multiple regression analyses,<sup>137,139,151,155,161,163</sup> only two adjusted for all the confounders considered important by the review authors (age, gender, prior fracture, baseline BMD, and BMI).<sup>151,155</sup> Twenty-seven of the studies had a minimum of 1-year follow-up in all patients.<sup>14,38,41,42,44,58,99,106,131,132,135–137,139,142,145,150–152,155,157–161,163,165</sup> The assessment of the reporting of adverse events of bone turnover markers was not assessed for these studies as their focus was not the assessment of the effectiveness or safety of bone turnover markers. A summary of the results of the quality assessment is given in *Figure 2*.

Given the limitations of the non-randomised studies included, all were considered to be at a high or unclear risk of bias, and therefore the overall quality of each of the studies was considered to be low. The low quality assigned to the cohorts derived from RCTs is not necessarily a reflection of the quality of the original RCT; this classification was primarily driven by the post hoc nature of the selection of patients in the paper reporting the outcomes of interest for this review, which can introduce bias. The full results of the quality assessment and the guidance used for its completion, including the criteria on which the overall quality was primarily based upon, are given in *Appendix 2*.



**FIGURE 2** Summary of the quality of the non-randomised studies.

### Assessment of clinical effectiveness

Five RCTs<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup> and one post hoc analysis of a subgroup of patients<sup>41</sup> from a previous RCT<sup>166</sup> evaluated the effectiveness of feedback of bone turnover marker results on QoL and/or adherence, compliance, or persistence in post-menopausal women. These terms were defined variably across the studies, particularly the proportion of medication taken which was the definition used across the studies for adherence, compliance and persistence. We decided to standardise the definitions by adopting the system used by Delmas *et al.*<sup>56</sup> persistence is the time until discontinuation of medication, compliance is the proportion of medication taken, and adherence is a combination of persistence and compliance. None of the RCTs reported on the impact of bone turnover marker monitoring on treatment management.

### Adherence

One study reported on adherence and found a significantly greater average daily proportion of patients who were persistent and compliant to 5 mg/day risedronate in those receiving feedback after the first reinforcement visit at 13 weeks ( $p = 0.01$ ).<sup>56</sup> The decrease in adherence observed over time was attributed to the increasing number of patients who did not persist with treatment.

### Compliance

Five studies reported on compliance (*Table 2*).<sup>41,133,143,148,149</sup> The rate of compliance with bisphosphonate therapy, even in the no-feedback arms of the trials, was very high and unlikely to be representative of clinical practice. Therefore, with such a high rate of baseline compliance, the capacity for feedback of bone turnover marker results to impact on the compliance is limited and there seems to be little difference between the feedback and no-feedback arms of the trials. Where odds ratios (ORs) could be calculated, there was no significant difference between the feedback and no-feedback arms; this could not be calculated for most of the studies owing to insufficient data (see *Table 2*).

### Persistence

One study reported 77% of patients persisting with 5 mg/day risedronate in those receiving feedback of uNTX results, and 80% in those that were not; this was a high baseline rate that may not be representative of clinical practice.<sup>56</sup> When adjusted for compliance, there was no significant impact of uNTX on persistence in the no-feedback arm ( $p = 0.71$ ); feedback of uNTX results significantly affected persistence in the feedback group ( $p = 0.0029$ ). Overall, there was a significant impact of feedback of uNTX results on discontinuation ( $p = 0.017$ ); where the message given to the patient was a good uNTX response (> 30% decrease), the hazard ratio (HR) for discontinuation was 0.71 [95% confidence interval (CI) 0.53 to 0.95]. Where the message given was a poor uNTX response, the HR for discontinuation was 2.22 (95% CI 1.27 to 3.89). Where the message given was that uNTX was stable, there was no significant difference in discontinuation between those receiving feedback and those who were not.<sup>56</sup>

### Quality of life

Two studies reported the results of the Osteoporosis Patient Perception Survey (OPPS) QoL questionnaire.<sup>133,148</sup> One reported statistically significant differences of at least 3.8% favouring feedback for all domains and the composite score ( $p \leq 0.021$ ) in women aged between 55 and 85 years, with the exception of the motivation domain ( $p > 0.05$ ).<sup>148</sup> The mean scores reported in the second study are given in *Table 3*; there were significant increases in feeling informed, satisfaction and the overall composite score.<sup>133</sup> Although statistically significant, it is unclear whether or not the small absolute changes are clinically significant.

**TABLE 2** Results of the RCTs reporting compliance as an outcome in patients who were and were not receiving feedback from bone turnover marker tests

Trial	Population; treatment	BM time point	Definition; treatment period	BM feedback		No BM feedback	
				Compliant	Non-compliant	Compliant	Non-compliant
Kung (2009) <sup>133</sup>	PMW ≤85 years; 150 mg/monthly ibandronate	sCTX; 3 months	At least five of six monthly doses within 1- to +21-day windows; 6 months	n = 288 (96%)	n = 12 (4%)	n = 274 (93%)	n = 22 (7%)
				OR: 1.93 (95% CI 0.94 to 3.97)			
				Reported: 533 adherent; 14 non-adherent; no results for feedback and non-feedback arms separately			
Roche (2009) <sup>148</sup> (n in each arm NR)	PMW 55–85 years; 150 mg/monthly ibandronate	sCTX; 1.5 months	Per cent adherence equivalent to at least five of six ibandronate doses taken within –3 to 21 days of monthly treatment date; 6 months	65.7%	34.3%	70.2%	29.8%
			Medication possession rate; 6 months	89%	11%	93.8%	6.2%
Roche (2009) <sup>149</sup>	PMW ≥ 55; 5 mg/day risedronate	sCTX; 5 weeks	Taking at least five of the planned six doses in 21-day period; 6 months	No significant difference between feedback and no feedback arms (p = 0.132)			
			Taking at least 10 of the planned 12 doses in 21-day period; 12 months	n = 187 (75%)	n = 63 (25%)	n = 260 (75%)	n = 86 (25%)
				OR: 0.98 (95% CI 0.67 to 1.43)			
Roche (2007) <sup>143</sup> (n in each arm NR)	PMW; 150 mg/monthly ibandronate	sCTX; 3 months	Took five or more of the six possible administrations in 21 days; 6 months	99.3% (95% CI 98.8% to 99.8%)		96.7% (95% CI 95.5% to 97.5%)	
<b>Study</b>	<b>Population; treatment</b>	<b>BM time point</b>	<b>Definition; treatment period</b>	<b>No feedback of BM results</b>			
Garnero (2008) <sup>141</sup>	PMW 55–85 years; 10 mg/day alendronate	P1NP; 3 months	80% of pills taken; 3 months	Compliant		Non-compliant	
				n = 49 (82%)		n = 11 (18%)	
<b>Study</b>	<b>Population; treatment</b>	<b>BM time point</b>	<b>Definition; treatment period</b>	<b>sP1NP decrease; median (25, 75 percentiles)</b>			
Garnero (2008) <sup>141</sup>	PMW 55–85 years; 10 mg/day alendronate	P1NP; 3 months	80% of pills taken; 3 months	Compliant		Non-compliant	
				–59.8% (–72.5% to –45.7%)		–25.1% (–71.1% to 24.6%)	
				p = 0.08			
BM; bone marker; n, number of patients; NR, not reported; PMW, post-menopausal women.							

**TABLE 3** Score from the OPPS questionnaire as reported in Kung *et al.* (2009)<sup>133</sup>

OPPS domain	BM feedback		No BM feedback		Mean difference (95% CI)
	Mean (SD)	<i>n</i>	Mean (SD)	<i>n</i>	
Composite score	74.3 (14.9)	283	70.8 (16.0)	277	3.5 (0.94 to 6.06)
Confidence score	71.2 (20.7)	285	70.0 (20.0)	277	1.2 (-2.16 to 4.56)
Feel informed	67.8 (21.5)	287	61.2 (24.3)	278	6.6 (2.81 to 10.39)
Motivation score	78.3 (19.4)	287	76.5 (20.9)	278	1.8 (-1.53 to 5.13)
Satisfaction score	79.8 (17.5)	285	75.5 (19.2)	278	4.3 (1.26 to 7.34)

BM, bone marker; SD, standard deviation.

### Assessment of test accuracy

Most of the evidence available evaluating the accuracy of bone turnover markers was in the form of correlations between changes in bone turnover marker levels and BMD measured using DXA. The studies were extremely heterogeneous precluding the use of any meta-analytical models; the data were therefore presented in tables for each type of treatment (bisphosphonates, teriparatide, raloxifene, strontium ranelate and denosumab) with a brief narrative. Even if the data were not heterogeneous, the usefulness of these correlation data to inform the accuracy of bone turnover marker tests for identifying patients who remain at risk of fracture is limited; this is discussed in more detail in *Limitations of the available evidence*.

Twenty-seven studies reported the results of correlation analyses,<sup>14,38,40,42–44,58,106,131,135,136,140,145,146,150,152–155,157–163,165</sup> eight reported the results of multiple regression analyses,<sup>132,137,139,151,153,155,161,163</sup> and four reported both.<sup>153,155,161,163</sup> The *r*-values reported were derived using Pearson's correlation in seven studies<sup>44,58,152,157,160,162,163</sup> and Spearman's rank correlation in 11;<sup>14,43,106,135,140,146,153,158,159,161,165</sup> the method was not reported in nine studies.<sup>38,40,42,131,136,145,150,154,155</sup> Five studies reported predictive accuracy results in terms of sensitivity,<sup>140,156</sup> results of receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analyses,<sup>140,156,159,161</sup> or reported sufficient data to produce 2 × 2 tables of test performance.<sup>163</sup> One uncontrolled cohort study reported the difference in bone turnover marker measurements between those with and without a fracture,<sup>142</sup> and another between those who did and did not have a response in BMD to treatment.<sup>162</sup>

### Bisphosphonates

Eighteen studies treated patients using bisphosphonates.<sup>14,40,44,58,131,136,137,139,142,145,153–158,163,165</sup> The variables that have been correlated, the time points at which they were measured and the patient population receiving treatment are given in *Table 4* for each bisphosphonate, along with the results of the correlation analyses. As can be seen from the table, no two studies assessed the same combination of variables and patient population, either within each drug or across bisphosphonates as a whole. Of the 54 *r*-values reported for correlations between changes in bone turnover marker and BMD, 19 were statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ); however, all of the correlations were weak ( $r < 0.5$ ). There were insufficient data for any combination of bone turnover marker, DXA site, time points at which tests were conducted, and patient population to identify any patterns in the data. One study reported correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and fracture incidence; there was a significant treatment by time interaction after the third administration of intravenous zoledronate with sCTX, but no significant association with sP1NP.<sup>40</sup>

Limited data from studies conducting multiple regression analyses indicated that there may be a significant association between the changes in bone turnover markers and either BMD or the incidence of hip or vertebral fractures (*Table 5*). However, although the studies adjusted for confounding factors, only one adjusted for all of the confounders considered important by the review authors.<sup>155</sup> Predictive ability was assessed using alternative methods in some studies (*Table 6*); these data provided little evidence regarding the predictive ability of the tests being evaluated.

**TABLE 4** Results from the studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover marker tests and either changes in DXA, vertebral strength index, or the incidence of fracture in patients being treated with bisphosphonates

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	n	r (95% CI)
<b>Alendronate</b>						
<b>sBALP</b>						
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	GCS induced	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	58	0.06
			Absolute change FN BMD			0.08
		6	Absolute change FN BMD		63	-0.05
			Absolute change LS BMD			-0.19
Ishijima (2009) <sup>154</sup>	Heterogeneous	6	Per cent change LS BMD	6	45	-0.185 <sup>a</sup> (-0.457 to 0.119)
Watts (2001) <sup>165</sup>	PMW ≥ 45 years	6	Per cent change FN BMD	12	180	-0.06
				24		-0.09
				36		-0.03
			Per cent change LS BMD	12	180	-0.36 <sup>b</sup>
				24		-0.24 <sup>c</sup>
				36		-0.17
				36		-0.17
Per cent change TB BMD	12	180	-0.07			
	24		-0.25 <sup>c</sup>			
	36		-0.23 <sup>c</sup>			
	36		-0.23 <sup>c</sup>			
	36		-0.23 <sup>c</sup>			
Kyd (1998) <sup>157</sup>	Women	6	Per cent change FN BMD	12	35	-0.09
						-0.25
			Per cent change LS BMD		35	-0.24
						-0.24
Reyes-Garcia (2010) <sup>58</sup>	PMW	No statistically significant correlations between sBALP and BMD – unclear which time points and DXA sites were analysed				
<b>sP1NP</b>						
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	GCS induced	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	71	0.02
			Absolute change FN BMD			69
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	18	70	-0.13
			Absolute change FN BMD			67

continued

**TABLE 4** Results from the studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover marker tests and either changes in DXA, vertebral strength index, or the incidence of fracture in patients being treated with bisphosphonates (*continued*)

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> (95% CI)
<b>sCTX</b>						
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	GCS induced	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	60	-0.32 <sup>c</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD		59	-0.29 <sup>c</sup>
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	18	62	-0.21
			Absolute change FN BMD		62	-0.28 <sup>c</sup>
Reyes-Garcia (2010) <sup>58</sup>	PMW	3	Change LS BMD	12	46	-0.304 <sup>b</sup>
Kyd (1998) <sup>157</sup>	PMW 52–82 years	6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	30	-0.05
Kyd (1998) <sup>157</sup>			Per cent change FN BMD		30	0.04
<b>uNTX</b>						
Kim (2005) <sup>44</sup>	PMW	3	Per cent change LS BMD	12	NR	-0.244
			Per cent change FN BMD			-0.019
		6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	0.011	
			Per cent change FN BMD		-0.376 <sup>c</sup>	
Kyd (1998) <sup>157</sup>	PMW 52–82 years	6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	30	-0.08
			Per cent change FN BMD		30	0.16
Ishijima (2009) <sup>154</sup>	Heterogeneous	6	Per cent change LS BMD	6	45	-0.332 <sup>a</sup> (-0.575 to -0.035)
Iwamoto (2005) <sup>131</sup>	PMW 54–88 years	3	Per cent change LS BMD	12	105	-0.20 <sup>c</sup>
		6			105	-0.341 <sup>b</sup>
		12			105	-0.338 <sup>b</sup>
Iwamoto (2004) <sup>155</sup>	PMW 55–88 years	6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	85	-0.321 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Alendronate</b>						
<b>uNTX</b>						
Imai (2009) <sup>136</sup>	PMW 49–85 years	3	Vertebral strength index	3	33	0.295
Masaryk (2002) <sup>99</sup>	PMW	3	Change LS BMD	12	≥ 42	-0.310 <sup>c</sup>
			Change FN BMD			-0.306 <sup>c</sup>
			Change TB BMD			-0.285

**TABLE 4** Results from the studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover marker tests and either changes in DXA, vertebral strength index, or the incidence of fracture in patients being treated with bisphosphonates (*continued*)

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> (95% CI)
<b>Alendronate and risedronate groups reported combined</b>						
<b>sCTX</b>						
Armstrong (2007) <sup>145</sup>	Heterogeneous	Unclear	Absolute change spine BMD	20 to 29 months after BM	46	0.25
		Unclear	Change T-score		46	0.30
Dobnig (2006) <sup>153</sup>	PMW ≥ 60 years	2	Per cent change FN BMD	12	37	-0.23
		6			37	-0.20
		12			37	-0.23
<b>Ibandronate</b>						
<b>sCTX</b>						
Hochberg (2010) <sup>163</sup>	PMW 55–80 years	3	Per cent change LS BMD	12	NR	-0.19 <sup>d</sup>
			Per cent change FN BMD			-0.07
			Per cent change hip BMD			-0.10
		6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	NR	-0.22 <sup>b</sup>
			Per cent change FN BMD			-0.08
			Per cent change hip BMD			-0.10
<b>Zoledronate</b>						
<b>sP1NP</b>						
Delmas (2009) <sup>40</sup>	PMW	12	Fracture incidence	36	No significant association when comparing deciles of sP1NP levels	553
<b>sCTX</b>						
Delmas (2009) <sup>40</sup>	PMW		Significant treatment by time interaction after third zoledronate injection <sup>b</sup>			174

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; GCS, glucocorticoid steroid; LS, lumbar spine; *n*, number of patients; NR, not reported; PMW, post-menopausal women; *r*, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient; TB, total body.

a Authors reported the use of a simple regression analysis, with the results reported as *r*-values.

b  $p < 0.001$ .

c  $p < 0.05$ .

d  $p < 0.01$ .

**TABLE 5** Results from the studies reporting regression analyses in which changes in the level of at least one bone turnover marker of interest was included as an independent variable in patients being treated with bisphosphonates

Study	Population; treatment	BM	Time point (months)	Dependent variable	Time point (months)	Other independent variables adjusted for	n	Result
Bauer (2004) <sup>139</sup>	55–80 years; alendronate, 5 mg/day increased to 10 mg/day	sBALP; 1 SD decrease	12	Incidence vertebral fracture Incidence hip fracture	Final follow-up	Age	1764	OR 0.79 (95% CI 0.66 to 0.95) RH 0.58 (95% CI 0.42 to 0.79)
Iwamoto (2004) <sup>155</sup>	≥45, prior spinal fracture; alendronate, 5 mg/day	uNTX	6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	Age, BMI, body weight, baseline BMD, height, other BM results, prior fracture, years since menopause	85	Regression co-efficient: –0.605, <sup>a</sup> R <sup>2</sup> 0.103
<sup>b</sup> Hochberg (2010) <sup>163</sup>	55–80 years; ibandronate, 150 mg/month	sCTX	3	Per cent change LS BMD	12	None	At least 276	R <sup>2</sup> 0.53 <sup>c</sup>
				Per cent change TH BMD				R <sup>2</sup> 0.46 <sup>c</sup>
				Per cent change FN BMD				R <sup>2</sup> 0.24 <sup>c</sup>
				Per cent change BMD (across all sites)				R <sup>2</sup> 0.25 to 0.58 <sup>a</sup>
			3	Per cent change LS BMD	12	Age, baseline BMD	At least 276 (47 missing CTX results; unclear at which time points)	R <sup>2</sup> 0.61 <sup>c</sup>
				Per cent change TH BMD				R <sup>2</sup> 0.58 <sup>d</sup>
				Per cent change FN BMD				R <sup>2</sup> NR, p > 0.05
				Per cent change BMD (across all sites; ≥ 3% a response)				R <sup>2</sup> NR, p > 0.05
			6	Per cent change LS BMD				R <sup>2</sup> 0.60 <sup>e</sup>

Study	Population; treatment	BM	Time point (months)	Dependent variable	Time point (months)	Other independent variables adjusted for	n	Result			
Eastell <sup>137</sup> (2003)	Prior spinal fracture; risedronate, 5 mg/day	uCTX	Mean 3–6	Per cent change LS BMD ( $\geq 0\%$ a response)	12 and 36	Age, baseline BMD, prior fracture	355	$R^2$ NR <sup>a</sup>			
				Per cent change TH BMD				$R^2$ 0.57 <sup>d</sup>			
				Per cent change TH BMD ( $\geq 0\%$ a response)				$R^2$ NR <sup>d</sup>			
				Per cent change FN BMD				$R^2$ 0.26 <sup>d</sup>			
				Incidence vertebral fracture					$p < 0.001$ for each time point		
				Incidence vertebral fracture				36		358	$p < 0.05$ for each time point (post hoc reanalysis)
				Incidence non-vertebral fracture						358	$p < 0.05$
				Incidence vertebral fracture				12 and 36		350	$p < 0.001$ for each time point
				Incidence non-vertebral fracture						358	$p < 0.05$ for each time point (post hoc reanalysis)
				Incidence non-vertebral fracture						350	$p < 0.05$
								$p = 0.031$			

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; GCS, glucocorticoid steroid; LS, lumbar spine; n, number of patients; NR, not reported; OR, odds ratio;  $R^2$ , regression coefficient; RH, relative hazard; TH, total hip.

a  $p < 0.01$ .

b Hochberg (2004)<sup>163</sup> did not report the regression coefficient, only the  $R^2$  value and the  $p$ -value associated with the regression coefficient.

c  $p < 0.001$ .

d  $p < 0.05$ .

**TABLE 6** Results from studies using various methods to measure the predictive ability of bone turnover markers to predict changes in BMD or fracture risk in patients being treated with bisphosphonates

Study	Population	Treatment	Outcome measure; BM time point	Vertebral fracture		No vertebral fracture		Mean difference (95% CI)	
				Mean (SD)	n	Mean (SD)	n		
Shiraki (2011) <sup>142</sup>	PMW	Alendronate 5 mg/day or 35 mg/week, or risedronate 2.5 mg/day or 17.5 mg/week	Per cent change in sBALP; mean 4.3 ± 1.9 years where no fracture; mean 3.7 ± 2 years where fracture	-20.3 (61.4)	49	-31.8 (32.0)	153	11.5 (-6.42 to 29.42)	
			Absolute change in sBALP; mean 4.3 ± 1.9 years where no fracture; mean 3.7 ± 2 years where fracture	10.8 (17.2)	49	13.4 (15.8)	153	-2.6 (-8.03 to 2.83)	
			Per cent change in uNTX; mean 4.3 ± 1.9 years where no fracture; mean 3.7 ± 2 years where fracture	-37.7 (48.2)	58	-31.9 (59.1)	167	-5.8 (-21.10 to 9.50)	
			Absolute change in uNTX; mean 4.3 ± 1.9 years where no fracture; mean 3.7 ± 2 years where fracture	28.0 (36.3)	58	25.7 (42.4)	167	2.3 (-9.04 to 13.64)	
Study	Population	Treatment	BM; BM time point; reference standard	True-positive	False-positive	False-negative	True-negative	Sensitivity	Specificity
Hochberg (2010) <sup>163</sup>	PMW 55-80 years	Ibandronate, 150 mg/monthly	sCTX (cut-off -67%); 3 months; gain LS BMD	136	50	111	104	55.1%	67.5%
			sCTX (cut-off 5%); 3 months; gain LS BMD	245	133	2	21	99.2%	13.6%
Study	Population	Treatment	BM; time point; reference standard	Sensitivity	Specificity	AUC	Comments		
Kitatani (2003) <sup>156</sup>	PMW	Cyclic etidronate; 200 mg/day 2 weeks; 10 weeks off	sBALP; 3 months; gain LS BMD	69	88	0.63	At least 59 patients in analysis (4 dropped out by 24 weeks; analysis 12-week data)		

AUC, area under the curve; BM, bone turnover marker; LS, lumbar spine; n, number of patients; NR, not reported; PMW, post-menopausal women; SD, standard deviation.

Overall, the type of data and quality of the evidence base are insufficient to draw any strong conclusion regarding the predictive accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in a population being treated with bisphosphonates.

### Teriparatide

Ten studies treated patients using teriparatide.<sup>14,38,42,106,140,146,150,152,159,162</sup> Seven studies administered 20 µg/day (Table 7),<sup>14,38,42,140,146,150,162</sup> two administered 40 µg/day (Table 8),<sup>140,159</sup> two reported results for a combined population that received either 20 or 40 µg/day,<sup>140,152</sup> and one study did not report the dose administered (Table 9).<sup>106</sup>

Of the nine studies that reported the results of correlation analyses, the *r*-values reported were derived using Pearson's correlation in one study<sup>152</sup> and Spearman's rank correlation in seven;<sup>14,38,42,106,140,146,159</sup> the method was not reported in one study.<sup>150</sup> Across 71 reported *r*-values for correlations between changes in bone turnover and BMD in patients treated with 20 µg/day teriparatide, 22 were statistically significant (see Table 7); however, all of them were weak ( $r < 0.5$ ). In patients being treated with 40 µg/day, 9 of 21 reported *r*-values indicated statistically significant, but weak, correlations (see Table 8). When data for patients receiving 20 and 40 µg/day were combined, 12 of 20 reported *r*-values were statistically significant (see Table 9), but, again, all correlations were weak. One of these studies analysed data for the 20 µg/day and 40 µg/day arms separately and combined;<sup>140</sup> the results for the patients receiving 40 µg/day teriparatide were similar to those of the combined arm, whereas the correlations between changes in bone turnover and BMD in those receiving 20 µg/day were much smaller.<sup>140</sup> The study that did not report the dose of teriparatide used reported a single non-significant *r*-value (see Table 9).<sup>106</sup> As with the results for those treated with bisphosphonates, no two studies assessed the same combination of variables and patient population, and there were insufficient data for each combination of bone turnover marker, DXA site, time points at which the tests were conducted, and patient population to identify any patterns in the data.

One study reported correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and dynamic bone parameters determined by bone biopsy in patients receiving 20 µg/day (see Table 7).<sup>150</sup> This study suggests that sCTX and sP1NP may be positively correlated with improvements in dynamic bone parameters measured after 24 months of treatment, particularly when the bone turnover marker was also measured at 24 months (no results were presented for the associations with 3, 6 and 12 months' bone turnover marker tests; however, the study was reported as an abstract and there was no response from the study authors to a request for further information); moderate to strong correlations were observed between the 24-month change in sCTX and sP1NP and the 24-month change in activation frequency ( $r = 0.69$  and  $r = 0.73$ , respectively).<sup>150</sup> A second study reported correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and bone structural and dynamic parameters for a population that combined patients receiving 20 or 40 µg/day (see Table 9).<sup>152</sup> This study reported significant correlations between the changes in sBALP conducted at 1 month and some structural parameters, with a strong correlation between the change in sBALP and mean wall thickness ( $r = 0.73$ ); there were no significant correlations with dynamic parameters. There were no significant correlations between structural or dynamic parameters and uNTX.<sup>152</sup> It is possible that significant correlations could have been detected if the bone turnover marker test had been delayed beyond 1 month, as demonstrated in the first study,<sup>150</sup> or if the analyses included a greater number of patients. In addition, as demonstrated by Chen *et al.*,<sup>140</sup> the strength of the correlation will be affected by the combining of data for 20 and 40 µg/day, particularly in such a small study.

**TABLE 7** Results from studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD, bone biopsy results, or the incidence of fracture in patients being treated with teriparatide 20 µg/day

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	n	r-Value
<b>sBALP</b>						
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	GCS induced	1	Absolute change FN BMD	18	52	0.19
			Absolute change LS BMD		52	0.04
		6	Absolute change FN BMD		58	0.18
			Absolute change LS BMD		59	0.19
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	1	Absolute change FN BMD	12	148	0.15
			Absolute change LS BMD		18	0.08
		3	Absolute change FN BMD	12	148	0.09
			Absolute change LS BMD		18	0.03
		6	Absolute change FN BMD	12	148	0.05
			Absolute change LS BMD		18	0.04
		12	Absolute change FN BMD	12	148	0.05
			Absolute change LS BMD		18	-0.05
Tsujiimoto (2011) <sup>146</sup>	≥ 55 years	1	Per cent change LS BMD	12	121	0.02
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	0.06
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.17
		3	Per cent change LS BMD	12	121	-0.12
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.06
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.06
		6	Per cent change LS BMD	12	121	-0.20 <sup>a</sup>
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.17
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.23 <sup>a</sup>
<b>sCTX</b>						
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	GCS induced	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	57	0.16
			Absolute change FN BMD		57	0.05
		6	Absolute change LS BMD		59	0.18
			Absolute change FN BMD		58	0.21
Stepan (2008) <sup>150</sup>	PMW	1	Per cent change double-labelled perimeter	24	35	0.17
			Per cent change MS/BS		35	0.21
			Per cent change AcF		35	0.28
		24	Per cent change BFR		35	0.15
			Per cent change double-labelled perimeter		35	0.37
			Per cent change MS/BS		35	0.45 <sup>b</sup>
			Per cent change AcF		35	0.69 <sup>c</sup>
			Per cent change BFR		35	0.44 <sup>a</sup>

**TABLE 7** Results from studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD, bone biopsy results, or the incidence of fracture in patients being treated with teriparatide 20 µg/day (continued)

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	n	r-Value	
Tsujiimoto (2011) <sup>146</sup>	≥ 55 years	1	Per cent change LS BMD	12	121	-0.12	
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.14	
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.23 <sup>a</sup>	
		3	Per cent change LS BMD		121	-0.08	
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.20 <sup>a</sup>	
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.26 <sup>a</sup>	
		6	Per cent change LS BMD		121	-0.11	
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.13	
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.24 <sup>a</sup>	
<b>sP1NP</b>							
Blumsohn (2011) <sup>42</sup>	PMW ≥ 55 years	1 Change	Absolute change LS BMD	24	414	0.213 <sup>c</sup>	
			Absolute change hip BMD		401	0	
			Absolute change FN BMD		401	0.081	
		1 Absolute value	Absolute change LS BMD		414	0.365 <sup>c</sup>	
			Absolute change hip BMD		401	0.141 <sup>b</sup>	
			Absolute change FN BMD		401	0.081	
		1	Fracture		NR	NR <sup>d</sup>	
			6 Δ change		Absolute change LS BMD	414	0.117 <sup>a</sup>
					Absolute change hip BMD	401	0.035
		Absolute change FN BMD			401	0.07	
		6 Absolute value	Absolute change LS BMD		414	0.219 <sup>c</sup>	
			Absolute change hip BMD		401	0.111 <sup>a</sup>	
			Absolute change FN BMD		401	0.107 <sup>a</sup>	
		6	Fracture		NR	NR <sup>d</sup>	
			<b>sP1NP</b>				
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	GCS induced		1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	77	0.33 <sup>a</sup>
		Absolute change FN BMD		77		0.34 <sup>a</sup>	
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	77		0.23 <sup>a</sup>	
			Absolute change FN BMD	77		0.30 <sup>a</sup>	
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	3	Absolute change LS BMD	18	132	0.26 <sup>a</sup>	
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	148	-0.04	
Miller (2008) <sup>38</sup>	PMW 51–85 years; prior BP treatment	3	Areal BMD	12	NR	NR <sup>d</sup>	
			Volumetric BMD of spine and hip		NR	0.45 <sup>a</sup>	

continued

**TABLE 7** Results from studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD, bone biopsy results, or the incidence of fracture in patients being treated with teriparatide 20µg/day (continued)

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	n	r-Value
Stepan (2008) <sup>150</sup>	PMW	1	Per cent change double-labelled perimeter	24	35	0.39 <sup>a</sup>
			Per cent change MS/BS		35	0.33
			Per cent change AcF		35	0.49 <sup>b</sup>
			Per cent change BFR		35	0.24
		24	Per cent change double-labelled perimeter	35	0.39 <sup>a</sup>	
			Per cent change MS/BS	35	0.48 <sup>b</sup>	
			Per cent change AcF	35	0.73 <sup>c</sup>	
			Per cent change BFR	35	0.47 <sup>a</sup>	
Tsujiimoto (2011) <sup>146</sup>	≥ 55 years	1	Per cent change LS BMD	12	121	0.56 <sup>b</sup>
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.02
			Per cent change Hip BMD		120	0.21 <sup>a</sup>
		3	Per cent change LS BMD	120	121	0.36 <sup>b</sup>
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.04
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	0.04
		6	Per cent change LS BMD	120	121	0.12
			Per cent change FN BMD		120	-0.12
			Per cent change hip BMD		120	-0.18
<b>uNTX</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	132	-0.13
			Absolute change FN BMD		148	-0.03
		3	Absolute change LS BMD	12	132	0.10
			Absolute change FN BMD		148	-0.09
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	12	132	-0.03
			Absolute change FN BMD		148	-0.09
		12	Absolute change LS BMD	12	132	-0.02
			Absolute change FN BMD		148	-0.10

AcF, activation frequency; BFR, bone formation rate; BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; GCS, glucocorticoid steroid; LS, lumbar spine; MS/BS, mineralising surface; n, number of patients; NR, not reported; PMW, post-menopausal women; r, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient; TB, total body.

a p < 0.05.

b p < 0.01.

c p < 0.001.

d No significant correlation (data not reported).

**TABLE 8** Results from studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD in patients being treated with teriparatide 40µg/day

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	n	r-Value
<b>sBALP</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.20 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.20 <sup>a</sup>
		3	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.18
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.26 <sup>a</sup>
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.15
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.09
		12	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.16
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.17
Lane (2000) <sup>159</sup>	PMW GCS induced	1	Absolute change LS BMD	12	28	0.39 <sup>a</sup>
		3			28	0.32
		6			28	0.25
Associations were comparable when the analyses were performed for 24-month changes in spine BMD						
<b>sP1NP</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	<b>3</b>	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.38 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.24 <sup>a</sup>
<b>uNTX</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.01
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.03
		3	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.20 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.04
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.30 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.11
		12	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.32 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.12

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; LS, lumbar spine; n, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women; r, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient.  
<sup>a</sup> p < 0.05.

**TABLE 9** Results from studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD or bone biopsy results in patients being treated with 20 or 40 µg/day teriparatide, or where the dose was unclear

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	n	r-Value
<b>20 or 40 µg/day</b>						
<b>sBALP</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.19 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.22 <sup>a</sup>
		3	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.17 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.24 <sup>a</sup>
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.14 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.12 <sup>a</sup>
		12	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.11
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.14 <sup>a</sup>
Dobnig (2005) <sup>152</sup>	PMW	1	2D cortical thickness	22	16	-0.14
			2D marrow star volume		15	-0.51
			2D mean wall thickness		17	0.73 <sup>b</sup>
			2D trabecular bone volume		16	0.58 <sup>a</sup>
			3D CD		19	0.19
			3D cortical thickness		15	-0.2
			3D SMI		19	-0.2
			3D trabecular bone volume		19	0.54 <sup>a</sup>
			3D trabecular number		19	0.31
			trabecular thickness		19	0.49 <sup>a</sup>
		2D dynamic parameters		NR	NR <sup>c</sup>	
<b>sP1NP</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	3	Absolute change LS BMD	18	127	0.40 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	137	0.15 <sup>a</sup>
<b>uNTX</b>						
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW	1	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.05
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.01
		3	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.19 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.03
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.17 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.07
		12	Absolute change LS BMD	18	259	0.20 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD	12	285	0.06
Dobnig (2005) <sup>152</sup>	PMW	1	Structural parameters	22	NR	NR <sup>c</sup>
			Dynamic parameters		NR	NR <sup>c</sup>

**TABLE 9** Results from studies reporting correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD or bone biopsy results in patients being treated with 20 or 40 µg/day teriparatide, or where the dose was unclear (*continued*)

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> -Value
<b>Dose unclear</b>						
<b>sP1NP</b>						
Siddiqi (2010) <sup>106</sup>	Unclear	1	Per cent change LS BMD	18	28	0.093

BM, bone turnover marker; CD, connectivity density; FN, femoral neck; GCS, glucocorticoid steroid; LS, lumbar spine; MS/BS, mineralising surface; *n*, number of patients; NR, not reported; PMW, post-menopausal women; *r*, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient; SMI, structural model index; TB, total body.

a  $p < 0.05$ .

b  $p < 0.001$ .

c No significant correlation – data not reported.

No studies were identified that reported the results of multiple regression analyses in patients being treated with teriparatide. Predictive ability was assessed using alternative methods in some studies (*Table 10*); these data provide little evidence regarding the predictive ability of the tests being evaluated.

Overall, the quality of the evidence base is insufficient to draw any strong conclusion regarding the predictive accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in a population being treated with teriparatide. Further, the lack of evidence of a correlation between changes in bone turnover markers and BMD does not indicate a lack of association between changes of bone turnover and fracture risk.

### Raloxifene

Three studies treated patients using raloxifene.<sup>132,151,160</sup> Of the 12 reported *r*-values, none was statistically significant and all correlations were weak (*Table 11*). There is some evidence that changes in sBALP may be associated with the incidence of fracture (*Table 12*); however, this was assessed in a single study that did not distinguish between women receiving 60 mg/day and 120 mg/day of raloxifene;<sup>151</sup> it is unclear whether or not the significant association seen in this study of raloxifene for the combined dose would be evident with both doses if analyses had been conducted separately for each dose. The evidence base is insufficient to draw conclusions regarding the predictive accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in a population being treated with raloxifene.

### Strontium ranelate

Two studies evaluated patients treated using strontium ranelate.<sup>135,161</sup> Of the seven reported *r*-values, six were statistically significant (*Table 13*); sP1NP and sCTX showed moderate correlations with absolute changes in BMD ( $r = 0.615$  and  $0.56$ , respectively). A single study reported the results of a multiple regression analysis and correlation (*Table 14*). Although the correlation between changes in sBALP and changes in BMD at the femoral neck were found to be weak and non-significant, when evaluated in the multiple regression analysis on a percentage change basis a significant association was evident; several explanatory variables were included in the multiple regression analysis. The opposite was true of sCTX, where significant but weak correlations were not evident in the subsequent multiple regression analysis.<sup>161</sup> Predictive ability was assessed using area under the curve (AUC) in one study (*Table 15*);<sup>161</sup> these data provide little evidence regarding the predictive ability of the tests being evaluated. Overall, the evidence base is insufficient to draw conclusions regarding the predictive accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in a population being treated with strontium ranelate.

**TABLE 10** Results from studies using various methods to measure the predictive ability of bone turnover markers to predict changes in BMD or fracture risk in patients being treated with teriparatide

Study	Population	Dose	BM: time point; reference standard	AUC
Lane (2000) <sup>159</sup>	PMW, GCS induced, <i>n</i> = 28	40 µg/day	sBALP: 1 month; 12-month gain spinal BMD	0.773
			sBALP: 3 months; 12-month gain spinal BMD	0.704
			sBALP: 6 months; 12-month gain spinal BMD	0.812
			sBALP: 6 months; 24-month gain spinal BMD	Comparable with those seen with 12-month changes (data not reported)

Study	Population	Dose	BM: time point; reference standard	Sensitivity	AUC	Cut-off values for BM for 90% specificity
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	PMW, <i>n</i> = unclear	20 or 40 µg/day	sBALP: 1 month; 18-month gain LS BMD	35%	0.71	5.2 µg/l
			sBALP: 3 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	33%	0.64	5.0 µg/l
			sBALP: 6 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	16%	0.62	14.6 µg/l
			sBALP: 12 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	44%	0.74	7.0 µg/l
			sP1NP: 3 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	69%	0.81	17.2 ng/l
			uNTX: 1 month; 18-month gain LS BMD	7%	0.64	50 nmol/nmol Cr
			uNTX: 3 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	23%	0.58	56.7 nmol/nmol Cr
			uNTX: 6 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	22%	0.61	82.6 nmol/nmol Cr
uNTX: 12 months; 18-month gain LS BMD	32%	0.65	62.5 nmol/nmol Cr			

Study	Population	Dose	BM: time point; reference standard	Mean change in uNTX
Heany (2011) <sup>162</sup>	PMW, 60–85 years, spinal fracture	20 µg/day	uNTX: unclear; responder in spinal BMD	173 responders: 17.0; 30 non-responders: 17.2
	PMW, 60–85 years, hip fracture		uNTX: unclear; responder in hip BMD	91 responders: 13.3; 112 non-responders: 20.1

AUC, area under the curve; BM, bone turnover marker; Cr, creatinine; GCS, glucocorticoid steroid; LS, lumbar spine; *n*, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women.

**TABLE 11** Results from studies reporting Pearson's correlation coefficients for analyses associating changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD in patients being treated with raloxifene

sBALP	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> -Value
Majima (2008) <sup>160</sup>	PMW	3	Absolute change LS BMD	6	63	-0.233
			Absolute change FN BMD		63	-0.186
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	12	63	-0.159
			Absolute change FN BMD		63	-0.156
			Absolute change LS BMD	12	63	-0.075
			Absolute change FN BMD		63	-0.183
sNTX	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> -Value
Majima (2008) <sup>160</sup>	PMW	3	Absolute change LS BMD	6	63	-0.16
			Absolute change FN BMD		63	0.201
		6	Absolute change LS BMD	12	63	-0.237
			Absolute change FN BMD		63	0.097
			Absolute change LS BMD	12	63	-0.23
			Absolute change FN BMD		63	0.108

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; LS, lumbar spine; *n*, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women; *r*, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient.

**TABLE 12** Results from the studies reporting regression analyses in which changes in the level of at least one bone turnover marker of interest was included as an independent variable in patients being treated with raloxifene

Study	Population; dose	BM	Time point (months)	Dependent variable	Time point (months)	Other independent variables adjusted for	n	Result
Reginster (2004) <sup>132</sup>	Mixed; 60 mg/day	sBALP	12	Incidence vertebral fracture	36	NR (unclear)	Unclear	Slope 0.0056 (95% CI 0.0003 to 0.0109)
		sP1NP					967	Slope 0.0085 (95% CI 0.0021 to 0.015)
		sCTX					Unclear	Slope 0.0027 (95% CI -0.0014 to 0.0068)
Bjarnason (2001) <sup>151</sup>	Mixed; 60 or 120 mg/day	sBALP	6	At least one new vertebral fracture	36	Age, baseline BMD, BMI, prior fracture, smoking status	1534	OR 0.63 (CI 0.5 to 0.8)
			12					OR 0.75 (CI 0.62 to 0.92)
RR fracture significantly greater in patients in upper sBALP tertile than lower at 6 ( $p = 0.036$ ) and 12 ( $p = 0.045$ ) months								
uCTX			6	At least one new vertebral fracture	36	Age, baseline BMD, BMI, prior fracture, smoking status	1451	OR 0.91 (CI 0.73 to 1.13)
			12					OR 0.81 (CI 0.64 to 1.03)
RR fracture not significantly greater in patients in upper sCTX tertile than lower at 6 ( $p = 0.49$ ) and 12 ( $p = 0.74$ ) months								

BM, bone turnover marker; n, number of patients; NR, not reported; RR, relative risk.

**TABLE 13** Results from studies reporting Spearman's rank correlations coefficients for analyses associating changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD in patients being treated with strontium ranelate

Study	Patient population	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> -Value
<b>sBALP</b>						
Bruyere (2010) <sup>161</sup>	PMW ≥ 50 years	3	Absolute change FN BMD	36	1737	0.06
<b>sP1NP</b>						
Moro-Alvarez (2010) <sup>135</sup>	PMW	Unclear	Absolute change LS BMD	12 or 24 (unclear)	66	0.615 <sup>a</sup>
<b>sCTX</b>						
Bruyere (2010) <sup>161</sup>	PMW ≥ 50 years	3	Absolute change LS BMD	36	1737	-0.09 <sup>b</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD			1737
Moro-Alvarez (2010) <sup>135</sup>	PMW	Unclear	Absolute change FN BMD	12 or 24 (unclear)	66	0.56 <sup>a</sup>
<b>uNTX</b>						
Bruyere (2010) <sup>161</sup>	PMW ≥ 50 years	3	Absolute change LS BMD	36	1737	-0.06 <sup>a</sup>
			Absolute change FN BMD			1737

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; LS, lumbar spine; *n*, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women; *r*, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient.

a  $p < 0.05$ .

b  $p < 0.001$ .

**TABLE 14** Results from the studies reporting regression analyses in which changes in the level of at least one bone turnover marker of interest was included as an independent variable in patients being treated with strontium ranelate

Study	Population; dose	BM	Time point (months)	Dependent variable	Time point (months)	Other independent variables adjusted for	n	R <sup>2</sup>
Bruyere (2010) <sup>a</sup>	≥ 50 years; 2 g/day	sBALP (1% change)	3	Absolute change LS BMD	36	Age, baseline BMD, other BM results, prior fracture	1737	7.8 <sup>b</sup>
		sCTX (1% change)		Absolute change FN BMD				5.2 <sup>b</sup>
				Absolute change LS BMD				6.6
		uNTX (1% change)		Absolute change FN BMD				4.7
				Absolute change LS BMD				3.7
		sBALP (change 1 SD)		Absolute change FN BMD				4.4
				Vertebral fracture risk reduction				
		sCTX (change 1 SD)						
		uNTX (change 1 SD)						
<b>Per cent reduction</b>								
8% (95% CI -4% to 20%)								
1% (95% CI -9% to 11%)								
6% (95% CI -9% to 19%)								

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; LS, lumbar spine; n, number of patients; R<sup>2</sup>, regression coefficient.

a Although this study reported a column for the regression coefficient, the figures presented did not appear to be β-coefficients, and therefore only the R<sup>2</sup> values and the p-values associated with the regression coefficients were extracted.

b p < 0.001.

**TABLE 15** Results from studies using various methods to measure the predictive ability of bone turnover markers to predict changes in fracture risk in patients being treated with strontium ranelate

Study	Population	Dose	BM: time point; reference standard: time point	AUC (95% CI)
Bruyere (2010) <sup>161</sup>	PMW ≥ 50 years, <i>n</i> = 1737	2 g/day	sBALP: 3 months; vertebral fracture: 3 years	0.51 (0.47 to 0.56)
			sBALP: 3 months; non-vertebral fracture: 3 years	0.51 (0.47 to 0.57)
			sCTX: 3 months; vertebral fracture: 3 years	0.48 (0.43 to 0.53)
			sCTX: 3 months; non-vertebral fracture: 3 years	0.46 (0.42 to 0.51)
			uNTX: 3 months; vertebral fracture: 3 years	0.52 (0.47 to 0.57)
			uNTX: 3 months; non-vertebral fracture: 3 years	0.47 (0.42 to 0.51)

*n*, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women.

## Denosumab

One study treated patients using denosumab.<sup>43</sup> Of the six reported *r*-values, five were statistically significant (*Table 16*); all correlations were weak ( $r < 0.50$ ). No studies were identified that reported the results of multiple regression analyses or results from any alternative methods of analysis. There is insufficient evidence to draw any conclusions regarding the predictive accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in a population being treated with denosumab.

### Assessment of test reliability and reproducibility

Four studies reported S/N ratio for a bone turnover marker in those being treated with either etidronate,<sup>156</sup> teriparatide<sup>42</sup> or raloxifene.<sup>147,164</sup> Each study calculated the S/N ratio differently, making comparisons across studies difficult (*Table 17*). Within-study comparisons show that sP1NP at 2 weeks had a lower S/N ratio than sCTX at 2 weeks but a higher S/N ratio at 25 weeks,<sup>147</sup> and sP1NP had a greater S/N ratio than sBALP when measured at 6 months.<sup>42</sup> Blumsohn *et al.*<sup>42</sup> reported the intraclass correlation coefficients measured at two time points between 3 and 14 days apart, which were 0.988 for sBALP and 0.983 for sP1NP.

**TABLE 16** Results from studies reporting Spearman's rank correlations coefficients for analyses associating changes in bone turnover markers and changes in BMD in patients being treated with denosumab

Study	Patient population	BM	BM time point (months)	Correlated with	Comparator time point (months)	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> -Value
Eastell (2011) <sup>43</sup>	PMW 60–90 years	sBALP	6	Change LS BMD	36	73 or 89 (unclear)	–0.26 <sup>a</sup>
				Change hip BMD			–0.06
		sP1NP	Change LS BMD	–0.42 <sup>b</sup>			
			Change hip BMD	–0.47 <sup>b</sup>			
		sCTX	Change LS BMD	–0.24 <sup>a</sup>			
			Change hip BMD	–0.44 <sup>b</sup>			

BM, bone turnover marker; FN, femoral neck; LS, lumbar spine; *n*, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women; *r*, Spearman's or Pearson's correlation coefficient.

a  $p < 0.05$ .

b  $p < 0.001$ .

**TABLE 17** Signal to noise ratios reported for three bone turnover markers across studies with diverse populations and treatment regimens

Study	Population; treatment	Calculation used	n	S/N ratio
<b>Bone formation markers</b>				
<b>sBALP</b>				
Kitatani (2003) <sup>156</sup>	PMW; 200 mg/day etidronate for 2 weeks; 10 weeks off	12-week change in BM/LSC	Min. 59 (max. 63)	Mean 1.3 (SD 1.2)
Sarker (2004) <sup>164</sup>	PMW; raloxifene, 60 or 120 mg/day	(% change BM raloxifene – % change BM placebo)/(SQRT(population variance % changes raloxifene – population variance % changes placebo)); BM measurements at 12 months	2503	0.27 (95% CI 0.19 to 0.36)
Blumsohn (2011) <sup>42</sup>	PMW ≥ 55 years; teriparatide, 20 µg/day	'Signal' = absolute change in log-transformed values; 'noise' = within-subject biological variability; BM measurement at 6 months	83	8
<b>sP1NP</b>				
Clowes (2003) <sup>147</sup>	Unclear; raloxifene, 60 mg/day	Per cent change at 2 weeks/intraindividual CV	22	Mean 0.03
		Per cent change at 25 weeks/intraindividual CV	22	Mean 2.7
Blumsohn (2011) <sup>42</sup>	PMW ≥ 55 years; teriparatide, 20 µg/day	Absolute change in log-transformed values : within-subject biological variability; BM measurement at 6 months	83	12.4
<b>Bone resorption markers</b>				
<b>sCTX</b>				
Clowes (2003) <sup>147</sup>	Unclear; raloxifene, 60 mg/day	Per cent change at 2 weeks/intraindividual CV	22	Mean 1.0
		Per cent change at 25 weeks/intraindividual CV	22	Mean 1.7
BM, bone turnover marker; CV, coefficient of variation; FN, femoral neck; LS, lumbar spine; LSC, least significant change; max., maximum; min., minimum; n, number of patients; PMW, post-menopausal women; SD, standard deviation; SQRT, square root.				

Clowes *et al.*<sup>147</sup> reported the intraindividual coefficients of variation (CVs), which were 13.2 for sP1NP and 22.9 for sCTX.

## Results of the systematic review of cost-effectiveness

No studies met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies. A list of excluded studies with the reasons for exclusion is given in *Appendix 3*.

## Discussion

This systematic review set out to (1) determine the clinical effectiveness of monitoring regimens that included at least one bone turnover marker, over and above monitoring regimens where a bone turnover marker was not used, and (2) identify which bone turnover marker, if any, should be introduced into routine practice for the monitoring of response to osteoporosis treatments with the aim of identifying

non-responders to treatment and informing treatment choice. In order to address these questions we sought a range of study designs. No studies were identified that evaluated the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies, and therefore the focus of this discussion is the clinical effectiveness evidence.

Randomised controlled trials were included if they compared monitoring with or without a bone turnover marker, the feedback of results of bone turnover tests, or monitoring with different bone turnover markers. We also searched for evidence on the accuracy, reliability and reproducibility of these tests in people with osteoporosis receiving treatment. There are a large number of RCTs that compare different treatment regimens, using bone turnover markers as an outcome to determine treatment response; we excluded these trials. Although such trials of treatment effectiveness indicate the magnitude of change in a bone turnover marker in response to treatment and potentially identify treatment non-responders, without a direct analysis of the association of the change in the bone turnover marker with a measure of fracture risk (such as BMD, incidence of fracture or biopsy), there is no evidence that the bone turnover markers have accurately identified non-responders. We therefore restricted our review of test accuracy to those studies that presented an analysis that directly compared the results of bone turnover markers with a measure of fracture risk.

The review identified a number of studies that used a range of methods to evaluate the clinical effectiveness and predictive value of bone turnover marker tests. Unfortunately, no studies meeting the inclusion criteria investigated the impact of bone turnover marker monitoring on patient management and treatment choices.

### Key findings

The included RCTs evaluated the impact of the feedback of results of bone turnover marker tests on QoL and/or adherence, compliance and/or persistence with bisphosphonate therapy. Although this is an important area of research, the usefulness of these data is limited because of the treatment regimens administered and the high baseline compliance and persistence rates; these issues are discussed further in *Limitations of the available evidence*, below. There was some evidence that the feedback of bone turnover marker results, and the message given, impacted on persistence with treatment; a positive result seems to encourage persistence and a negative result to discourage it.<sup>56</sup> This may not be the response expected to the feedback of such results in clinical practice. It may be expected that a message that treatment was not working could encourage adherence rather than discourage it, assuming that the potential risk of fracture is highlighted to the patient. It is worth noting that the RCT evaluating this, firstly, was conducted in older women aged 65–80 years, and may not be reflective of the response of younger post-menopausal women or of those with secondary osteoporosis, and, secondly, used daily risedronate which is a regimen that is not commonly used in current clinical practice.

Two of the included RCTs also reported on the QoL using the OPPS questionnaire; these studies reported small improvements for those patients receiving feedback in the overall, feeling informed and satisfaction scores<sup>133,148</sup> and the confidence score,<sup>148</sup> compared with those who did not receive feedback. Although this is based on only two studies, one received questionnaires from 563 of the 596 participants recruited, and the other study recruited 585 participants although it was not clear how many of these returned questionnaires. A study identified during the scoping review of modelling methods explored the impact of monitoring antiresorptive treatments using a bone turnover marker on quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs).<sup>167</sup> The decision tree (up to 3 months) and Markov model (3 months to 5 years) was based on a 60-year-old woman with post-menopausal osteoporosis with a total hip T-score of  $-3$ , no concurrent disease, and second-generation bisphosphonate therapy for 5 years. The comparators were no monitoring beyond a simple short-term follow-up to rule out adverse reactions, and monitoring with a serum bone resorption marker after 3 months of treatment. This modelling study showed small improvements in QALYs when adherence to treatment was assumed to be the same in both monitoring strategies, with the improvement being greater if monitoring improved adherence.<sup>167</sup>

The majority of the evidence for the review of clinical effectiveness was based around the predictive accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in the form of correlations with changes in BMD; the limitations of these data are discussed in *Limitations of the available evidence*, below. Given the extreme heterogeneity across the studies, it was impossible to determine trends for any particular treatment–bone turnover marker monitoring combination. Studies correlating changes in bone turnover with either biopsy results or fracture outcomes were uncommon, with two studies using biopsy results as the comparator<sup>150,152</sup> and seven using fracture.<sup>40,42,132,137,139,151,161</sup> The use of biopsy in all patients in a study is unlikely to be considered ethical because of the invasive nature of the procedure and the risk of complications. In addition, there are several limitations to the use of fracture outcomes as the comparator: the outcome is relatively rare, resulting in the need for larger studies; there needs to be a longer duration of follow-up in order to detect the outcome; and attrition is likely to be a problem over the time period required. These limitations may be the reason that DXA is most commonly used for the comparator. Data from the studies that used either biopsy or fracture were heterogeneous in terms of patient population and treatment regimen, and method of data analysis. The results of these studies were inconsistent and there were insufficient data to determine trends for any particular treatment–bone turnover marker monitoring combination.

There was no evidence available to inform the question as to the clinical effectiveness of treatment monitoring including a bone turnover marker over and above monitoring regimens where a bone turnover marker was not used. Further, the evidence available relating to the predictive accuracy, reliability and reproducibility was heterogeneous and of low quality, precluding the ability to draw any conclusions regarding the choice of bone turnover marker for use in monitoring in routine clinical practice.

### **Strengths and limitations of the review**

The systematic review was based on an extensive search with well-designed search strategies. Abstracts were included when there were sufficient data to be extracted; authors of all potentially included abstracts were contacted in an attempt to identify full publications and/or obtain unpublished data. In addition, no study was excluded based on date of conduct or language of publication. Studies were selected using inclusion criteria defined a priori. We included RCTs of any size in the review of the clinical effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring. However, given (1) the large number of non-randomised studies and randomised studies from which cohorts were derived, from which data on test accuracy, reliability and reproducibility could have been extracted, (2) the apparent poor quality of this evidence base, and (3) the time constraints on the project, an additional criterion not specified in the protocol was applied. We excluded non-randomised studies and derived cohorts that included fewer than 20 osteoporotic patients, receiving one of the treatments of interest, in all the analyses of outcomes relevant to this review. This cut-off was used to distinguish between a case series and a cohort study, excluding from the review the lowest levels of evidence. This is the only change made to the protocol. Although the studies were too heterogeneous to pool using statistical meta-analytical models, we conducted a narrative synthesis in an attempt to summarise the evidence available.

### **Limitations of the available evidence**

As with all systematic reviews, the reliability and generalisability of the results are governed by the quality and quantity of the evidence available. Although we included 42 studies, all were considered to be at a high or unclear risk of bias, and therefore of low quality. Furthermore, no RCTs were identified that addressed one of the primary aims of the review: to evaluate the clinical effectiveness of monitoring regimens that included at least one bone turnover marker, over and above monitoring regimens where a bone turnover marker was not used. Where RCTs were conducted, these reported primarily on compliance.<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup>

Adherence to treatment (in terms of both compliance and persistence), particularly with oral bisphosphonates, is a considerable problem in the management of patients with osteoporosis.<sup>32,168–171</sup> Oral bisphosphonates are associated with gastrointestinal adverse events,<sup>15,32,49–51,172</sup> and require adherence to specific instructions for administration to maximise absorption and bioavailability that many patients find inconvenient.<sup>15,32,53</sup> Non-adherence to treatment regimens will result in a non- (or inadequate) response to

treatment and a continued higher risk of fracture.<sup>173,174</sup> A recent systematic review of 27 observational studies, most of which were retrospective database analyses, reported a rate of fracture ranging from 6% to 38% in patients who were non-compliant, and 5% to 19% in patients who were non-persistent with osteoporosis medications.<sup>175</sup> The meta-analysis conducted included 12 of the studies and indicated a statistically significant increased risk of fracture of approximately 30% in patients who were non-compliant (OR 1.29, 95% CI 1.22 to 1.38), and 30% to 40% in patients who were non-persistent (OR 1.40, 95% CI 1.29 to 1.52) with treatment.<sup>175</sup> Most of the patients in the review received bisphosphonates; however, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, calcitonin, HRT, vitamin D and calcium were included in the regimens administered.<sup>175</sup>

In the five RCTs that met the inclusion criteria for this review,<sup>56,133,143,148,149</sup> a very high proportion of patients were adherent to medication; this is unlikely to be representative of clinical practice. Why there was such a high rate of compliance in the trials is unclear. It could be due to the use of a once-monthly dosing regimen used in most of the trials rather than daily or weekly dosing, as less frequent dosing is generally preferred by patients and can result in increased adherence.<sup>32,173,176</sup> Other potential reasons are: the short duration of follow-up used in most of the studies; that patients giving consent to be part of the trial are more likely to be compliant; and/or the increased attention and resulting patient awareness that being part of a trial may result in. It is, therefore, unclear how the feedback of bone turnover marker results would impact on the population seen in generally clinical practice, which is likely to be less compliant and/or persistent.

Most of the evidence available relating to the accuracy of the bone turnover markers was in the form of correlations with BMD, measured using DXA. Some of the correlations, but not all, were statistically significant. The fact that a correlation coefficient is statistically significant is not indicative of a strong association between the two variables. The likelihood of the results of a correlation analysis achieving statistical significance is influenced by study sample size; small samples are unlikely to have sufficient power to detect statistically significant results. Indeed, the results showed non-significant but strong correlations in small studies, and significant but weak correlations in larger studies; the majority of the studies where a strong correlation was detected were small, thus lacking the power to detect significant results. Although pooling these studies to derive a summary estimate could be a solution to increase the statistical power, the high level of clinical heterogeneity across the studies precluded the use of meta-analytical techniques. In addition, a non-significant result reflects only that there is no linear association (which is what the correlation coefficient evaluates) and not that there is no association at all.

These correlation data may be further limited in their usefulness, as BMD is only one factor that impacts on bone strength and therefore on fracture risk,<sup>177</sup> and the association between bone turnover markers and BMD may vary depending on the population and on the menopausal status in women.<sup>70</sup> There are three factors that determine bone strength: density, architecture and porosity,<sup>177</sup> and therefore increases in BMD explain only a limited proportion of the reduction in fracture risk.<sup>91,178</sup> Bone turnover impacts on all the three aspects of bone strength,<sup>177</sup> and so unlike BMD, biomarkers used to measure bone turnover reflect changes in overall bone strength, and hence potentially fracture risk.<sup>91,177</sup> It has been suggested that it is reductions in activation frequencies and reductions in bone turnover resulting in thickening of critical trabeculae, reductions in perforation of trabecular plates and promotion of bone mineralisation, rather than increases in BMD, that reduce a patient's risk of fracture with antiresorptive therapy.<sup>48,179</sup> In studies of raloxifene, risedronate, alendronate and zoledronic acid, bone turnover markers reportedly explained between 28% and 77% of the fracture risk reduction, compared with changes in BMD explaining up to 28% with the same agents.<sup>47</sup> Therefore, even if there is no significant correlation between changes in bone turnover markers and increases in BMD, it cannot be assumed that there is no correlation with fracture risk. BMD is a poor surrogate on which to assess the accuracy of bone turnover markers, and any presumption that bone turnover markers are not effective in identifying patients who are not responsive to treatment and still at risk of fracture based on these data would be unwise.<sup>70,177,178</sup>

The lack of value of the correlation data was compounded by the extreme heterogeneity across the studies in terms of patient populations, the definitions used to diagnose osteoporosis, treatment regimens, bone turnover marker tests used and their timing, and the DXA sites used and the timing of DXA scans; no two studies reported the results for the same combination of these factors, precluding the use of any meta-analytical models. In addition, where reported, there was heterogeneity across studies in terms of obtaining and handling of samples. For the studies evaluating serum bone turnover markers, patients were not fasted in one study using sBALP,<sup>142</sup> storage temperature ranged from  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ <sup>140,157,158,160</sup> to  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,<sup>58,163</sup> and the assay method used also varied (most noticeably for sBALP, which was measured using chemiluminescence,<sup>42,43</sup> enzyme immunoassay,<sup>142,154,156,159,165</sup> ELISA,<sup>40,58,160</sup> immunocapture,<sup>157</sup> IRMA,<sup>14,132,139,140,151,152,157,161,164</sup> or an ostease assay where the variant was not reported<sup>146</sup>). For studies evaluating urinary bone turnover markers, where reported, collection was the first morning void<sup>151</sup> or second morning void,<sup>44,56,137,142,152,158,161</sup> storage temperature ranged from  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ <sup>44,137,140</sup> to  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,<sup>154,158</sup> and the assay method used varied, with chemiluminescence<sup>10,162</sup> and ELISA<sup>44,56,99,131,140,142,152,154,155,158,161</sup> being used in studies that reported the assay; two of the studies using uNTX did not report whether or not the results were corrected for creatinine.<sup>56,136</sup> These limitations in the data prevented us from drawing any strong conclusions regarding the relationship between change in bone turnover markers and BMD, or fracture, from the results of these correlation analyses.

Correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and biopsy results and, more importantly, fracture outcomes<sup>70</sup> may be more useful than correlations between changes in bone turnover markers and BMD. These two outcomes do not solely measure changes in bone density, but incorporate bone porosity and microarchitecture. In addition, an assessment of the association with fracture incidence is a direct assessment of the association with the event the bone turnover markers are attempting to predict at the time of testing. The only study to report correlations to both BMD and fracture incidence showed that post-menopausal women over 55 years of age receiving teriparatide reported statistically significant correlations between changes in sP1NP at 1 month and BMD at 24 months, but not fracture.<sup>42</sup> However, the correlations with BMD were weak, and the correlation coefficients for the association with fracture were not reported; therefore, the strength of the association with fracture is unclear. Whether this would be true of other population–bone turnover marker–treatment combinations, or if sP1NP was measured after more than 1 month of treatment, is uncertain.

The assessment of the relationship between changes in bone turnover markers and biopsy or fracture outcomes would be further improved if confounding factors were adjusted for in a multivariate regression analysis. Even if significant correlations are identified between bone turnover markers and these other measures for fracture risk, it is unclear whether or not the use of correlation statistics fully explains the relationship. If these variables were to be incorporated into a multiple regression analysis where other important predictive variables are also included, it is possible that these other variables, or combination of variables, may be stronger predictors of fracture risk than bone turnover markers. In addition, where there is a non-significant association between change in bone turnover markers and fracture risk, the association may change and become significant when other predictive factors are included in a multivariate regression analysis, owing to a synergistic effect of combined variables. These apparently non-significant associations may therefore be important influences within a multivariate regression analysis. Therefore, evaluations of the association between changes in bone turnover markers and subsequent fracture risk outcomes should incorporate confounding factors. In order to assess the accuracy of bone turnover markers in terms of their ability to identify patients who remain at risk of fracture, research needs to be conducted to investigate their independent predictive value of fracture risk.

Data from studies conducting multiple regression analyses gave some indications that a significant association between the changes in bone turnover markers and the incidence of hip or vertebral fractures in patients being treated with bisphosphonates was observed. However, although we have indicated that data from multiple regression analyses that adjust for important confounding factors are of more value than data from correlation analyses, the limited use of these analyses, and the heterogeneity across the studies that did conduct them, limits the usefulness of these data.

As a consequence of the limitations of the data discussed, there is currently insufficient high-quality, consistent evidence available to draw any firm conclusions on the ability of changes in bone turnover markers to identify patients not responding to treatment, or to predict future fracture risk. There are substantial gaps in the clinical evidence base, particularly in terms of the impact of bone turnover marker monitoring on treatment management decisions, and the independent predictive value of bone turnover markers for future fracture. Further research is required. However, given the large number of possible combinations of patient population–treatment–monitoring regimens, decision-analytic modelling will be an essential component of that research if we aim to inform efficient decision-making. Therefore, suggestions for future research are discussed in *Chapter 6, Suggested research priorities* so that these can incorporate the needs of the assessments of both clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

### Comparison with previous systematic reviews

One review included RCTs that compared antiresorptive treatment regimens with placebo in post-menopausal women, reported associations between changes in a bone turnover marker (or BMD) and the incidence of fracture.<sup>75</sup> The review was based on 18 trials involving 26,494 women, which amounted to 69,369 woman-years. Poisson regression analyses were used to investigate associations between the difference in percentage change in bone turnover marker between the treatment and placebo groups and the relative risk of fracture, weighted by woman-years. As with our review, the trials were heterogeneous in terms of the bone turnover markers used, treatment regimens, patient population and duration of follow-up over which fracture was assessed. Antiresorptive therapy in general resulted in a decrease in resorption bone turnover marker, and a concomitant decrease in the rate of bone formation turnover markers. Therefore, a decrease in either type of marker is seen as an indication of a reduction in bone turnover. Overall, regression coefficients were 0.0067 [standard error (SE) 0.0034; range of change in bone turnover marker compared with placebo across studies +1% to –70%] for changes in resorption bone turnover marker and 0.0134 (0.0051; range of change in bone turnover marker compared with placebo across studies +7% to –56%) for formation markers. There was a 40% decrease in fracture risk for those treatments that decrease resorption markers by 70% compared with placebo and a 44% decrease in fracture risk for those treatments that decrease formation markers by 50% compared with placebo. Changes in bone turnover marker were significantly correlated with changes in BMD ( $p \leq 0.002$ ); regression coefficient ( $R^2$ ) = 0.58 for resorption markers and 0.41 for formation markers.<sup>75</sup>

It is unclear how comparable the results of this review are to our review, for several reasons. Firstly, trials that evaluated calcitonin and alendronate combined with oestrogen were included in the analyses; these are treatments not being considered in our review. Calcitonin is now authorised only for short-term use in Paget's disease and acute bone loss due to sudden immobilisation and hypercalcaemia caused by cancer, and not for treatment of osteoporosis,<sup>180</sup> and oestrogen is a HRT used to treat and prevent a range of post-menopausal symptoms which could lead to an overestimation of the effectiveness of alendronate. Secondly, data for resorption markers (urinary deoxypyridinoline, CTX, NTX and urinary hydroxyproline) were combined, as were data for formation markers (serum osteocalcin and sBALP); the specific bone turnover markers used in each study were not reported in the publication, and therefore it is unclear how many of the studies used the bone turnover markers being evaluated in our review. Thirdly, the analyses were restricted to changes in bone turnover markers at 12 months (three studies used data from 6 months where 12-month data were not available); our review was particularly interested in the changes at 3 (and secondarily at 1 and 6) months, as it is the early detection of treatment non-responders that makes bone turnover marker monitoring a potentially useful strategy. In addition, sensitivity analyses conducted by the review authors showed that the overall statistically significant association between resorption and bone formation turnover markers, and the risk of fracture was lost when the largest trial that administered raloxifene was removed from the analysis ( $p = 0.09$ ), and for resorption bone turnover markers when any one of three alendronate trials were removed, two of which were the second and third largest trials. Therefore, it is uncertain whether there are specific population–treatment–bone turnover marker combinations that produce significant associations with fracture, or whether this is a sample size issue and that most studies were underpowered to detect the association.

A second review that addressed a broader question, including studies of patients with and without osteoporosis, conducted a separate analysis investigating the association between bone turnover markers and fracture outcomes in osteoporotic patients receiving antiresorptive therapy.<sup>47</sup> This section of the review included seven publications; one of these reported only on the results of serum osteocalcin, which is not being evaluated in our review. All six of the relevant studies included in the review by Vasikaran *et al.*<sup>47</sup> were included in our review.<sup>40,132,137,139,151,161</sup> The same data (results from regression analyses) were extracted for both reviews from one study.<sup>151</sup> However, the data extracted from the other studies varied between the two reviews, making comparisons of the results of the two reviews more difficult. Vasikaran *et al.* extracted the percentage treatment effect explained (TEE) for two of the studies,<sup>132,137</sup> an outcome not considered in our review; we extracted regression data from both of these studies,<sup>132,137</sup> whereas Vasikaran *et al.* extracted regression data from only one.<sup>132</sup> Predictive data in the form of AUCs were extracted by both reviews from one study; we also extracted regression data.<sup>161</sup> Both reviews extracted regression data from a further study; we extracted data only for sBALP, as this is the only bone turnover marker that had results reported for the subgroup of patients with osteoporosis. The analyses of the other bone turnover markers included patients with osteopenia who were not being considered in our review.<sup>139</sup> For the final study included in the review by Vasikaran *et al.*, we extracted data on the correlations between bone turnover markers (sP1NP and sCTX) and fracture outcomes, whereas Vasikaran *et al.*<sup>40</sup> extracted the relative risk/odds ratio of fracture for the treatment compared with placebo in the subgroup of patients who had been tested using sP1NP. In addition, our review included results from regression analyses from three studies,<sup>154,155,163</sup> and other predictive data from three studies,<sup>142,156,163</sup> that were not included in the review by Vasikaran *et al.* The review by Vasikaran *et al.* did not consider results from correlation analyses;<sup>47</sup> we included data on correlations between bone turnover markers and fracture from two studies.<sup>40,42</sup>

Vasikaran *et al.* concluded that the evidence available relating to the association between bone turnover marker changes and fracture risk reduction is promising, but further studies are needed to address sample handling, the timing of bone turnover marker testing, and the statistical methods used; an assessment of whether or not the final bone turnover marker level is a guide to fracture risk was suggested. Vasikaran *et al.* also included an assessment of the impact of bone turnover monitoring on adherence to osteoporosis medication. Vasikaran *et al.* included two studies in this assessment, one of which was included in our review<sup>56</sup> and the other excluded as it was conducted on patients with osteopenia rather than osteoporosis.<sup>181</sup> We included a further four RCTs that evaluated the impact of feedback of bone turnover marker results in patients with osteoporosis.<sup>133,143,148,149</sup> Vasikaran *et al.*<sup>47</sup> concluded that both of the studies included in their review showed that the feedback of results from a positive result encouraged adherence, and a negative result discouraged it. As already mentioned, this response may be surprising; however, the two studies were conducted in populations that were not representative of a general osteoporotic population or of a population of osteoporotic post-menopausal women (one conducted in older women aged 65–80 years<sup>56</sup> and the other in patients who had not yet developed osteoporosis<sup>181</sup>). Therefore, it is unclear whether or not this response would be representative of the osteoporotic population seen in clinical practice. In addition, the inclusion of additional RCTs in our review casts doubt on the impact of feedback of bone turnover marker test results on compliance and adherence. However, as stated above in *Limitations of the available evidence*, these studies are unlikely to be reflective of clinical practice.

A third review evaluated the use of bone turnover markers for the monitoring of osteoporosis therapy in post-menopausal women.<sup>6</sup> This review included 48 studies, most of which were excluded from our review because they evaluated serum osteocalcin, tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase 5b (TRAPc5b) or P1CP; recruited patients who did not have osteoporosis or mixed populations where results for those with osteoporosis were not reported separately; made comparisons between baseline bone turnover marker test results and BMD or fracture outcomes only; had fewer than 20 treated patients in their analyses; or received an osteoporotic treatment that was not one of those being considered in this review. Of the 48 studies included in Funck-Brentano *et al.*,<sup>6</sup> nine assessed the correlation between changes in bone turnover markers and either BMD or fracture risk in at least 20 patients with osteoporosis

receiving one of the treatments being considered in this review, and were therefore included in our review.<sup>132,139,140,151,157,160,161,163,165</sup> We included a further 17 studies that reported correlations between bone turnover markers and BMD or fracture risk in patients with osteoporosis receiving one of the treatment regimens of interest,<sup>14,38,40,42–44,58,99,106,131,135,145,146,153,155,159,160</sup> two that reported correlations with results from biopsy,<sup>150,152</sup> and one that reported correlations with vertebral strength index.<sup>136</sup> Funk-Brentano *et al.*<sup>6</sup> did not include data from regression analyses or other types of predictive data. The review by Funk-Brentano *et al.* concluded that short-term changes in bone turnover markers were significantly correlated with BMD variation, but there was no evidence that they predict benefit on fracture risk at the individual level. A high proportion of the non-significant correlations were in those studies that also met the inclusion criteria for our review and, therefore, if based solely on those nine studies, the conclusions drawn are unlikely to have been so strong.

## Summary

There was no evidence available evaluating the clinical effectiveness of treatment monitoring including a bone turnover marker. The evidence available relating to the predictive accuracy, reliability and reproducibility was heterogeneous and of low quality, precluding the ability to draw any conclusions as to which bone turnover marker should be introduced into routine practice for the monitoring of response to osteoporosis treatments in the absence of evidence from RCTs. Much of the available evidence was in the form of correlations between changes in bone turnover BMD. As stated previously, BMD is a poor surrogate for fracture risk on which to assess the accuracy of bone turnover markers, and any presumption that bone turnover markers are not effective in identifying patients who are not responsive to treatment and still at risk of fracture based on these data would be unwise. Further research is required, particularly in terms of the impact of bone turnover marker monitoring on treatment management decisions, and the independent predictive value of bone turnover markers for future fracture risk. However, suggestions for future research need to be made with modelling in mind; therefore, in order to achieve this, recommendations are discussed in the overall discussion (see *Chapter 6, Suggested research priorities*). No studies met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review of the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies.



# Chapter 4 Economic modelling

## Methods for the methodological scoping review

In addition to the systematic review, we undertook a number of additional small focused searches of the economic databases searched as part of the systematic review (HEED, IDEAS, and NHS EED) to identify studies that modelled adherence and/or treatment change in patients in the context of monitoring treatment response. The purpose was to identify modelling methods that may be useful for the development of economic models in the future. No critical appraisal was planned. The objective was to survey the modelling methods and provide a narrative synthesis. Data were extracted on the country, type of model, study objective, adherence definition, approach to modelling adherence and the approach to modelling treatment change. Full search strategies for each database searched are provided in *Appendix 1*.

Paper titles and abstracts were examined for relevance and all potentially relevant papers were ordered. Papers were then screened for relevance by two reviewers, with disagreements resolved by consensus.

## Results of the methodological scoping review

The searches identified 130 records after deduplication; 21 papers were retrieved. Of these, 12 modelled adherence to treatment for osteoporosis and one modelled treatment change and adherence, and were included in the scoping review. The search strategy was not limited by indication, but did not identify any studies that modelled adherence and/or treatment change as a result of monitoring treatment response using a biomarker within a different indication. This section provides a narrative summary of the modelling methods for adherence and treatment management used in the 12 included studies. Summary tables for each study can be found in *Appendix 5*.

### Country

The country setting for four studies was North America:<sup>167,182–184</sup> three in the USA<sup>167,182,183</sup> and one in Canada.<sup>184</sup> The remaining eight papers were conducted for western European countries.<sup>185–192</sup> Five studies were conducted by the same authors in Belgium,<sup>188–192</sup> (these are included separately because there were slight variations in the methods used), one was undertaken in the UK,<sup>187</sup> one in Sweden,<sup>185</sup> and one in the Netherlands and the UK.<sup>186</sup>

### Type of model

Nine studies were based on individual patient-level Markov (or state transition) microsimulation models.<sup>182,185–192</sup> Five of these were by the same group of Belgian investigators.<sup>188–192</sup> Two studies used a combined decision tree and Markov modelling approach,<sup>167,184</sup> and one used a Markov cohort model alone.<sup>183</sup>

### Study objective

The objectives of the studies were to estimate the cost-effectiveness of different treatments for osteoporosis,<sup>186–188,190</sup> to model adherence or persistence to treatments of osteoporosis,<sup>182,183,185,189,191,192</sup> to model the cost-effectiveness of a multifaceted intervention to improve osteoporotic care by encouraging patients to come forward and receive treatment after fracture of the wrist,<sup>184</sup> and to evaluate different follow-up regimes for antiresorptive treatments for post-menopausal women with osteoporosis.<sup>167</sup> The latter assessed only health benefits, measured in QALYs, and did not include costs.

### Adherence definition

Nine studies used the term 'adherence'.<sup>167,185–192</sup> Ten studies used the term 'compliance'.<sup>167,182,185–192</sup> Nine studies used the term 'persistence'.<sup>183–185,187–192</sup>

In *Chapter 3* (see *Assessment of clinical effectiveness*) we adopted standard definitions for adherence, compliance and persistence owing to variation in their use. Persistence is the time until discontinuation of medication, compliance is the proportion of medication taken, and adherence is a combination of persistence and compliance. The remaining sections will use these definitions, rather than those specified by the study authors, to ensure consistency. However, where the terms used differ from these definitions, this will be highlighted.

### Compliance

Ten studies incorporated compliance into their modelling.<sup>167,182,185–192</sup> In seven of the studies, cut-off compliance thresholds were applied to delineate compliant from non-compliant patients. In four studies, patients were considered to be compliant if their medical possession ratio (MPR) was  $\geq 80\%$ .<sup>185,190–192</sup> In one study, compliance was defined in terms of the MPR which ranged from 10% to 100%.<sup>189</sup> In two studies, a compliance rate was used, but the threshold was not stated.<sup>186,188</sup> Three studies assumed that when a patient was on treatment then they were 100% compliant with their medication use.<sup>167,182,187</sup>

### Persistence

Eleven studies incorporated persistence into their model.<sup>167,182–185,187–192</sup> A definition of 'primary non-adherence' was also mentioned in two studies and was used to describe the situation where patients were prescribed a drug but never had the prescription filled.<sup>185,192</sup>

### Compliance and persistence

Of the studies that modelled persistence, six were studies which modelled compliance using a range of cut-offs between 0% and 100%.<sup>185,188–192</sup> Other studies that modelled persistence assumed that all those on treatment were fully compliant.

## How compliance, persistence and adherence were modelled

### Compliance

In the four studies which defined compliance as a MPR  $\geq 80\%$ , the probabilities of a MPR  $< 80\%$  were modelled with declining annual percentage rates assigned following the first, second and third years of therapy;<sup>185,190–192</sup> all conducted sensitivity analyses on the compliance rate. The rate of fracture depended on the MPRs, which were derived from Belgian observational data. In the study where the compliance threshold ranged from 10% to 100% based on individual patient data, the risk of hip fracture for the different thresholds was again estimated from Belgian observational data, and the risk of non-hip fracture was estimated from US observational data.<sup>189</sup> In one study the compliance rate was estimated at 70.5%.<sup>188</sup> In one study full compliance was assumed in each arm in the base-case analysis, but non-compliance was assumed to be 30% in sensitivity analysis to evaluate the effect of different compliance rates on the results.<sup>186</sup> Three further studies assumed that when a patient was on treatment then they were 100% compliant with their medication use.<sup>167,182,187</sup> Two of these studies conducted sensitivity analyses on the compliance rate.<sup>167,187</sup> In one of these studies fracture risk for those adherent to treatment was further differentiated depending on whether or not the patient was considered a treatment responder or non-responder.<sup>167</sup>

### Persistence

In related studies by the same authors, persistence was modelled as the percentage of patients who initiated treatment and subsequently discontinued treatment at different time points ranging from 3 months to 2.5 years.<sup>188–192</sup> The time points and the discontinuation rates varied between studies. In one study, persistence rates were estimated for the first 3 years and then were assumed to be stable from 3 years until 5 years.<sup>185</sup> Another study modelled persistence as 39% at 6 months and assumed a continual

decrease thereafter over 5 years.<sup>183</sup> The initial persistence rate was obtained from a clinical trial, and the assumption of a continual decrease was derived from a UK general practitioner (GP) research database. In another study, 1-year persistence was 80% and this was assumed to continue for the next 4 years.<sup>184</sup> In one study, there was a probability of discontinuation every 3-month period, and patients were permitted to reinstate treatment (but there was no apparent switching to a different treatment).<sup>182</sup> In one other study, persistence was assumed to be 50% over the duration of treatment.<sup>167</sup>

In three studies, patients modelled as discontinuing treatment at 3 months were assigned no treatment benefit but incurred 3 months' drug/treatment and monitoring costs.<sup>187–189</sup> In four studies, patients modelled as discontinuing treatment at 6 months were assigned no treatment benefit but incurred 3 months' drug/treatment and monitoring costs.<sup>185,190–192</sup>

### Compliance and persistence

In every paper judged as distinguishing the different aspects of adherence, compliance rates were applied to patients continuing treatment. In two of these studies primary non-adherence was also incorporated and was modelled as 4.6–11.6%.<sup>185,192</sup> It was assumed that these patients incurred only the cost of a physician visit and BMD measurement in one study,<sup>185</sup> or cost of screening in another.<sup>192</sup>

### How treatment management was modelled

Only one study incorporated a change of treatment into their model structure.<sup>167</sup> The model allowed for switching from a bisphosphonate to a second-line treatment, such as teriparatide, if results of a bone turnover marker test during follow-up led to the conclusion that compliance or response to treatment was inadequate. The authors appeared to have assumed that bone turnover markers were able to correctly identify responders and non-responders to treatment, and so test accuracy data were not included in their model.

### Summary of approaches for modelling adherence and treatment change

Only one study modelled treatment change as a result of bone turnover marker monitoring during treatment, and this study did not include test accuracy data. The other studies only modelled aspects of adherence to treatment; compliance was the most commonly modelled variable, with persistence and compliance being distinguished in some studies.

Compliance was considered a binary variable in most studies that modelled compliance. That would allow a relative risk of compliance to be utilised in a model of monitoring strategies that gave test feedback to patients to encourage adherence. The cut-off point for determining compliance/non-compliance was 80% in several studies, chosen to be consistent with that reported in the literature, although it is not clear how that cut-off point was derived. It is likely that there will be more evidence on the risk of fracture for compliant and non-compliant patients defined with that cut-off point than for other cut-off points. Potential confounders should be accounted for when estimating the relative risk of fracture between compliant and non-compliant patients.

Real-life persistence rates were estimated, where possible, based on observational data from databases, and hazard rates could be estimated if survival models fit the data. Six studies modelled compliance, non-compliance and persistence separately, and therefore incorporated the different aspects of adherence.

Including an estimate of primary non-adherence where patients are prescribed treatment is a useful approach if there are a significant proportion of patients for whom that applies. These primary non-adherent patients would not be captured in a survival model.

## Economic model

As previously stated, the systematic review of cost-effectiveness analyses did not identify any relevant published studies. In addition, the review of the clinical effectiveness evidence could not establish the clinical effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring strategies. As well as a lack of clinical effectiveness data, other key parameters for which there were inadequate data included the test accuracy data at different time points; fracture risk given compliance and responder status; and the effect of bone turnover marker feedback on compliance and persistence for different tests and treatment regimens. Owing to the lack of these relevant data, no economic model was developed and consequently no expected value of information analyses conducted. Expected value of information analyses can be conducted only when valid estimates for the model parameters are available and valid estimates of uncertainty are available for the relevant parameters.

This section, therefore, describes what the necessary information to undertake a cost-effectiveness analysis of the treatment and monitoring strategies described in the section below, *Modelling data requirements for hypothetical strategy*, might be, and the research that is required to fill the gaps in the current evidence base.

The objective of an economic model is to determine the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for monitoring treatment response and informing patient management decisions. There are two potential uses of bone turnover marker tests within the proposed monitoring strategy: (1) to encourage patients to adhere to treatment; and (2) to inform treatment change. The premise for both uses is that the bone turnover marker tests can accurately identify response to treatment. The decision alternatives relevant to the decision question posed will include various treatment and test combinations, including the option of no treatment. The optimal test will depend on the choice of treatment, which includes the dose, frequency and mode of delivery. The timing of the tests and associated decision rules may depend on the type of test (e.g. P1NP, BALP, CTX) and the threshold cut-off point for determining treatment response and non-response. Decision rules involve specifying a timetable of tests and the patient pathway that would be followed based on the results of those tests. Having defined these alternatives, the cost-effectiveness of the alternative monitoring strategies can be assessed.

### Current practice

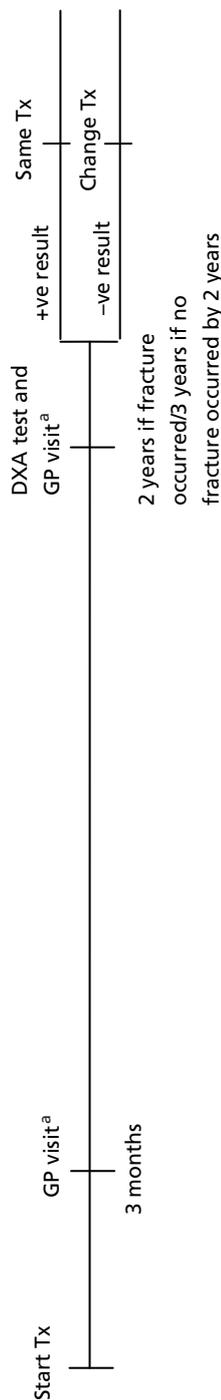
Based on discussion with a clinical advisor the timings of GP visits and DXA tests in current practice are presented in *Figure 3*. In this monitoring strategy decisions on treatment change as a result of a poor DXA test result occur at either 2 or 3 years, depending on whether or not a fracture occurred within the first 2 years. Decisions may also be influenced by the occurrence of side effects and patient statement on compliance to treatment: if a patient discontinues treatment because of side effects, then a different class of treatment may be prescribed. If there is a poor DXA test result and the patient claims to be compliant to treatment then a new class of treatment would be prescribed; however, if the patient admits to non-compliance then an alternative dose or mode of delivery of the same treatment may be appropriate, where one is available.

### Alternative monitoring strategy using bone turnover marker tests

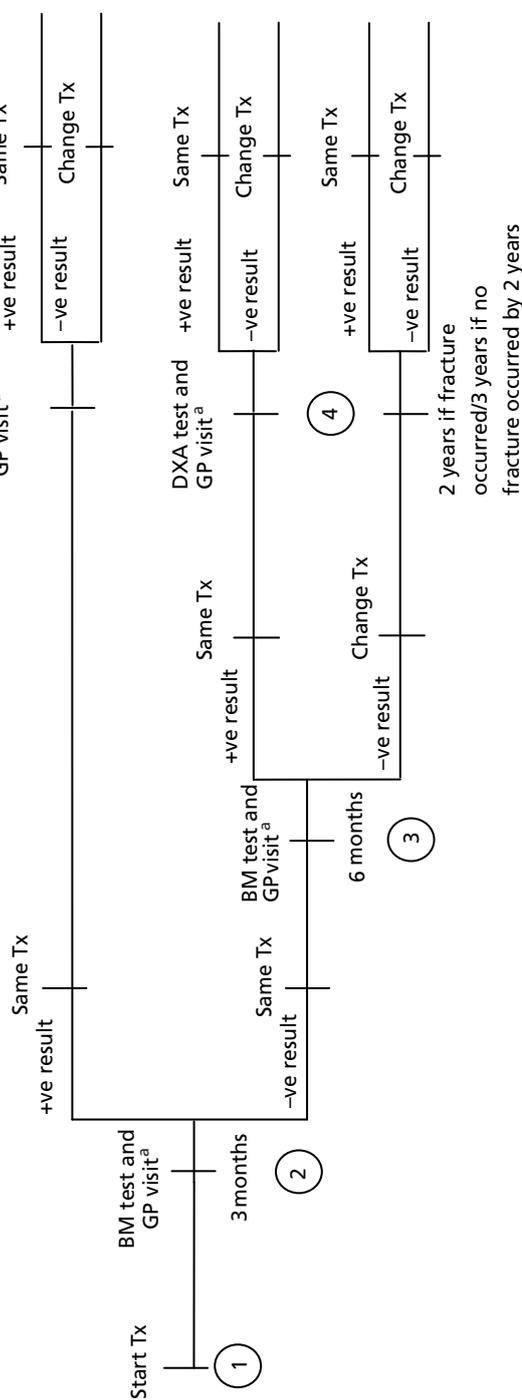
We are not aware of any published guidelines on the use of bone turnover markers in the UK for monitoring response to treatment for osteoporosis which could be used to inform alternative monitoring strategies incorporating bone turnover markers. Therefore, based on discussion with a clinical advisor, a feasible monitoring strategy using bone turnover marker tests was constructed and is presented in *Figure 3*. The purpose of this figure is to allow the presentation and discussion around the type of data that might be required to evaluate similar strategies.

The numbers in circles indicate four different stages to the strategy. In this hypothetical strategy, patients are started on treatment at stage 1. At stage 2, after 3–6 months, depending on the type of test and treatment, a first bone turnover marker test is done. The results are fed back to the patients in order to

### A: Current monitoring strategy



### B: Feasible monitoring strategy



**FIGURE 3** Current and feasible monitoring strategies for response to treatment. a, GP visit: enquire about patient adverse events and adherence. The numbers in circles mark different stages of the monitoring strategy. Tx, treatment; +ve, positive; -ve, negative.

improve, or encourage continued, adherence. At stage 3, a second bone turnover marker test is done only for patients who received a negative result on the first test. This would be done at 6–12 months depending on the type of test and treatment. Using a predefined decision rule after a second negative test result, a treatment change would be recommended. The clinician may recommend a new treatment class to everyone with two negative test results. Alternatively, if the clinician has assessed patient adherence, he or she may recommend a new treatment class only to adherent patients and a different mode of delivery and/or frequency of the same treatment class to non-adherent patients where one is available.

Given the lack of evidence, it has not been possible to determine clinically relevant strategies for evaluation. The timing of the bone turnover marker tests may vary by the type of test used and the type of treatment administered that the test is monitoring a response to. The optimal timing of a bone turnover marker test needs to be determined by, for example, studies that evaluate the S/N ratio at different time points; there may be a trade-off between a greater S/N ratio and delay to response monitoring. While some S/N ratio data were identified in the review, these were inadequate to address the issue of optimal timing and combination of treatment and tests.

### *Different cost-effectiveness analysis methods*

Based on the review of modelling methods, the two most common models employed to address this type of decision question are:

- (a) individual patient-level Markov simulation
- (b) decision tree and Markov model combined.

Both of these modelling methods require the combination of evidence on the risk of fracture given different risk factors, the effect of feedback on response rates and bone turnover marker test accuracy data.

### *Modelling data requirements for hypothetical strategy*

#### **Stage 1: osteoporosis treatment**

At the start of the model a population will be defined and individuals will be assigned characteristics. For this discussion our population will comprise post-menopausal women. Each woman will belong to an age group, will have an assigned T-score (e.g.  $< -2.5$ ) and a fracture history (e.g. no prior fractures or two prior fractures). She will start on treatment for osteoporosis. Based on her characteristics (e.g. T-score  $< -2.5$ , no prior fractures, aged 55 years) and treatment (e.g. oral bisphosphonates) there will be an associated fracture risk. That risk will vary depending on whether a patient is a responder or non-responder to treatment.

The ideal method to model the true-positive, false-positive, true-negative and false-negative test results, and their impact on treatment change later on in the model, is to distinguish patients by treatment response defined by a cut-off point related to the test being used. The fracture risk for these population groups would need to be determined. The optimal cut-off point in terms of the least significant change for any of the bone turnover markers is uncertain.

#### **Stage 2: initial monitoring stage**

The second stage of the model occurs when the first bone turnover marker test is done. In our hypothetical strategy this is at 3 months, but in clinical practice this would be a variable optimal time point determined for each test and treatment combination being evaluated. Bone turnover markers test for treatment response. In the hypothetical strategy we have assumed that poor results of the first bone turnover marker test feedback will be a signal to the clinician to encourage compliance and persistence.

#### **Stage 3: the effect of bone turnover marker tests on treatment change**

Stage 3 of the model is when a second bone turnover marker test is done to identify response to treatment. At this stage clear decision rules regarding what defines a responder from a non-responder in

terms of bone turnover marker test results would be required. Only patients with a negative result from the first test get a second test. The decision rule considered in the hypothetical strategy is that a change in treatment class would occur only if there were two negative test results.

#### Stage 4: the effect of a dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry test on the treatment pathway

At stage 4 of the hypothetical strategy DXA testing is conducted at 2 or 3 years after the start of treatment. DXA testing is also done in current practice at 2 or 3 years.

#### Test accuracy

When diagnostic or prognostic tests are included in a decision-analytic model, test accuracy needs to be considered and the clinical outcomes for patients with correct (true-positive and true-negative) and incorrect (false-positive and false-negative) test results need to be incorporated.<sup>193</sup> Test accuracy will be an important factor in any decision model used to investigate the current decision problem as test errors may result in an incorrect treatment pathway being followed. A non-responder incorrectly identified as a responder (false-positive) would likely remain on their current treatment, and would not benefit from a change in treatment class. Conversely, a responder who was incorrectly classified as a non-responder (false-negative) may be prescribed a different drug unnecessarily. Where patients have true-positive (a responder identified as a responder) or true-negative (a non-responder identified as a non-responder) results, they will benefit from appropriate treatment management choices based on the correct test results.

For this decision problem, test accuracy will need to be determined for each of the tests within the pathway; in the example, test accuracy for bone turnover markers would be needed for stages 2 and 3, and test accuracy for DXA at stage 4. The major limitation for establishing the accuracy of bone turnover marker tests in identifying treatment non-responders is the lack of a gold standard.

There are a range of reference standards available, but each has its limitations. Bone biopsy could be seen as the ideal reference standard. However, given the invasiveness of the test and the high risk of complications it would be considered unethical to conduct studies where all patients would undergo biopsy to confirm treatment response. The next most complete reference standard would be the use of BMD with clinical follow-up to determine fracture incidence to supplement the BMD results. Where BMD indicated a response to treatment sufficient enough to reduce a patient's fracture risk but the patient went on to have a fragility fracture, the patient could be reclassified as a non-responder. This would mean that if the bone turnover marker was negative in this patient, it would be reclassified from a false-negative to a true-negative. Whether a patient who did not have a response in BMD but did not go on to have a fragility fracture within a certain time frame could be reclassified from a non-responder to a responder is less certain.

Less perfect reference standards are the incidence of fracture alone and BMD alone, the latter being the poorest available reference standard. The lack of suitability of BMD as a surrogate for fracture risk against which we can judge the accuracy of bone turnover tests is discussed in *Chapter 3* (see *Limitations of the available evidence*). An alternative method for estimating the test error rates for a test at a particular time point would be to use the intraindividual variation data that is used to calculate S/N ratios, but these estimates may be inferior to test accuracy data with an appropriate comparator.<sup>194</sup> When establishing the accuracy of DXA, the only reference standards are bone biopsy and fracture incidence, and the limitations of these have already been discussed.

Once the proportion of true-positives, true-negatives, false-positives and false-negatives had been established, fracture risk for each of these groups would need to be estimated.

#### Measures of adherence

As discussed previously, adherence has two aspects: compliance and persistence – both of these are important causes of non-response to osteoporosis treatment. Clearly, adherence to treatment will affect a

patient's response to treatment, at all stages of the treatment pathway. Therefore, any attempt to model adherence would apply to each stage in *Figure 3*. Several studies modelling the effectiveness of treatment have modelled compliance and persistence. Our decision problem involves the ability of tests to identify treatment responders and non-responders rather than to establish treatment effectiveness. For patients identified by a test as a non-responder (bone turnover markers at stage 2 and 3; DXA at stage 4), treatment non-response could have a number of causes, including: non-compliance; non-persistence; an underlying, untreated cause of the osteoporosis; an inability to absorb the drug; and/or test error. The issue of test accuracy has been addressed in earlier in this chapter (see *Test accuracy*).

Including measures of adherence in the model would be of use only if there would be different treatment pathways for adherent and non-adherent non-responders, and/or there was evidence that feedback of bone turnover marker test results increased adherence. It is possible that there would be different treatment pathways for adherent and non-adherent non-responders for those who were treated with first-line oral bisphosphonates, as true non-responders are unlikely to respond to a different dosing frequency or mode of administration, but patients who are non-compliant with a daily or weekly oral dose may become compliant with a monthly oral dose or intravenous administration. Therefore, the importance of modelling adherence may differ depending on the choice of first-line treatment. Adherence rates may improve by providing feedback from bone turnover marker tests to the patients, but there is no strong evidence for this effect.

The ideal method to model adherence would be to include adherence from the start of treatment. A primary non-adherence estimate could be modelled, which is a percentage of patients who are recommended treatment but do not start treatment. This could be estimated from the number of prescriptions that are not filled; however, this would underestimate the value, as some patients may have a prescription filled and not commence treatment. To include measures of adherence in subsequent stages of a model, the proportions of non-compliant non-responders and compliant non-responders would need to be established. There are limitations with the methods available for determining these estimates. It is likely that the most common means of identifying these data would be based on patient reporting, which is prone to bias. Measures such as the MPR rate are also problematic, as patients may have their prescriptions filled but not take all of the medication prescribed. In the case of bisphosphonates, patients may take their tablets but not comply with the strict regimen required, adding a further complication to the establishment of a rate of compliance. Persistence could be estimated by reviewing the attrition rates from RCTs evaluating treatment effectiveness; this would likely underestimate the rate. Such a review could be supplemented with data from observational studies that use sources such as GP databases.<sup>183</sup> Any estimate of compliance, persistence or overall adherence would be highly uncertain, making it extremely important that it is incorporated into the modelling in a manner which allows appropriate sensitivity analysis to be undertaken.

In addition to the adherence data, the fracture risk for these population groups would also need to be determined. If it can be assumed that the relative risk of fracture given treatment versus no treatment is based on a compliant population, then the relative risk of fracture given good compliance versus poor compliance enables the calculation of the risk of fracture for poorly compliant patients to treatment. There would be an interaction between compliance and response. The optimal cut-off point is uncertain and needs to be established prior to modelling.

One aspect of adherence deserves separate consideration, namely discontinuation rates due to treatment-related adverse events; this is a particular issue for bisphosphonates. Gastrointestinal upsets are common with oral bisphosphonate therapy, but an additional, serious, side effect would have to be incorporated in the model; osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ). This is a side effect specific to the use of bisphosphonates, and can lead to the need for costly dental surgery. Although this is a rare adverse event, there is some evidence that the risk of developing ONJ is much higher with intravenous bisphosphonates than with oral preparations.<sup>195</sup> The rate of ONJ may be investigated initially by a review of long-term RCTs

that evaluate the clinical effectiveness and safety of bisphosphonate therapy; the review could supplement these data with the available prospective observational and retrospective studies.

### **Summary of modelling approaches and available evidence**

The key part of a cost-effectiveness analysis of bone turnover marker tests for monitoring response to treatment for osteoporosis is accounting for test accuracy, the prognostic outcomes for true- and false-positive and negative test outcomes, and the effect of bone turnover marker feedback on patient adherence to treatment. This affects both who benefits from bone turnover marker feedback and who benefits from treatment change. These data were either absent completely in the evidence identified in this review, were insufficient given the different tests and treatments, or were applicable to populations with unrealistic adherence rates for clinical practice.

Compliance and persistence are commonly modelled separately. The effect of test feedback on adherence is often reported as the effect on compliance or persistence. Given the relationship between the two and bone turnover marker levels, this does require assumptions to simplify the model.

This section has focused on those gaps in the evidence that would be essential to any future decision-analytic model but may be difficult to establish estimates for. Other variables, such as estimates of treatment effectiveness and data on utilities or other relevant QoL outcomes, would be required. Information would also be required on resource use, including the cost of tests, GP/clinic visits, treatment costs, and the costs associated with treating serious side effects such as ONJ.



## Chapter 5 Discussion

### Statement of principal findings

The systematic review of clinical effectiveness found no evidence evaluating the impact of treatment monitoring regimens that included a relevant bone turnover marker on treatment management decisions. The review identified limited data assessing the effect of bone turnover marker feedback on patient compliance, persistence and/or adherence to treatment, the results of which suggested that the positive feedback results encouraged patient adherence.

A moderate number of correlation data were identified relating to the predictive accuracy of the four bone turnover markers, namely P1NP, BALP, CTX and NTX, in osteoporotic patients being treated with one of the targeted drug therapies: bisphosphonates, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, teriparatide and denosumab. Most correlations had a small effect size, indicating a weak association between changes in the level of bone turnover markers (usually between 1 month and 6 months of starting treatment) and subsequent changes in BMD (usually between 1 year and 3 years after the start of treatment). The studies that used regression analyses to adjust for confounding factors when evaluating the association between bone turnover markers and either subsequent changes in BMD or fracture gave some indication that changes in bone turnover markers may be significantly associated with these outcomes; however, there were too few of these studies to draw any firm conclusions.

In terms of the evaluation of the test reliability and reproducibility, some available evidence suggested that sP1NP may have a greater S/N ratio than sBALP and sCTX at short-term follow-up, but the data on this outcome were sparse and longer-term follow-up data absent.

Overall, the evidence required to address the decision problem was lacking, and the limited evidence that was available was heterogeneous and of poor quality. Consequently, it was impossible to draw any conclusion as to whether bone turnover markers were able to identify treatment non-responders or predict fracture risk independently of BMD in patients receiving osteoporosis treatment.

The systematic review of cost-effectiveness identified no studies evaluating different treatment monitoring strategies, where BALP, P1NP, CTX or NTX were incorporated as part of one of the strategies. Given the lack of evidence on the clinical effectiveness of bone turnover marker monitoring on treatment management, a *de novo* decision-analytic model could not be developed, and consequently the value of any future research could not be investigated.

The scoping review of modelling methods used in the broader context of osteoporosis treatment identified 12 modelling studies, of which only one modelled treatment change. A range of methods were used to deal with modelling adherence; adherence was defined in different ways, but several studies distinguished between compliance and persistence components of adherence which was consistent with the standard definitions that this review adopted from Delmas.<sup>56</sup> Compliance was defined using the MPR, and the threshold for distinguishing compliant and non-compliant patients varied, although 80% was the most common threshold. Real-life persistence rates based on observational data were often modelled for different time points, and primary non-adherence, where patients fail to start treatment, was also included in two studies. Separating these different components of adherence presents a practical method of modelling adherence and the effect of adherence on fracture risk. The one model that incorporated treatment change allowed for switching if the clinician concluded that compliance or response to treatment was inadequate, but the authors assumed perfect test accuracy.

## Strengths and limitations of the assessment

### Strengths

We conducted a rigorous systematic review which addressed clear research questions using pre-defined inclusion criteria. Comprehensive literature searches were conducted to locate all relevant published and unpublished studies without any language restrictions, thereby minimising both publication and language biases. Efforts were also made to identify additional studies by hand-searching the reference lists of relevant publications. We are therefore confident that we have been able to include all the relevant studies in the evaluation of the clinical effectiveness, predictive accuracy, reliability and reproducibility, and cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for monitoring treatment response that met our inclusion criteria. Each stage of the review was conducted in duplicate, reducing the risk of error and bias. Owing to the high degree of clinical heterogeneity across the studies in terms of patient populations, treatment regimens and duration of follow-up, the clinical data were appropriately synthesised using a narrative approach.

As we were unable to conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis, we conducted additional assessments of the economic models used to address similar decision problems in order to inform future decision-analytic modelling that may be undertaken to address the decision problem investigated in this review.

### Limitations

The main limitations of the review of clinical effectiveness were the lack of data on the effectiveness of monitoring regimens and the poor quality of the data that were available; all of the included studies were judged as low quality. This lack of robust data relating to the comparative predictive values of the different bone turnover marker tests for monitoring the response to a specific osteoporosis treatment precludes the possibility of determining which bone turnover marker, if any, is superior in terms of its ability to identify treatment non-responders and predict future fracture risk when used for monitoring osteoporosis treatment.

Despite the moderate amount of correlation data identified for the evaluation of the relationship between changes in bone turnover markers and BMD, it remains unclear whether or not these findings can also be utilised as an indicator of the association with the outcome of fracture risk. As discussed in *Chapter 3* (see *Limitations of the available evidence*), BMD is a poor surrogate for fracture risk.<sup>47,70,177,178</sup> Treatment-induced changes in BMD account for a limited proportion of the observed reduction in fracture risk;<sup>91,178</sup> therefore, using BMD as a surrogate for assessing the accuracy of bone turnover markers for identifying patients on treatment who remain at risk of fracture is inappropriate.

Although the incidence of fracture is a more robust outcome measure for fracture risk,<sup>70</sup> there was a paucity of data correlating the changes in bone turnover marker levels to this outcome. There was also a paucity of studies that adjusted the associations between changes in bone turnover markers and either changes in BMD, fracture, or other measures such as spinal strength indices or results of biopsy, for confounders in multiple regression analyses. As discussed in *Chapter 3*, where strong associations are identified between bone turnover markers and fracture or other measures in correlation analyses, there is no evidence that these would produce significant associations when other important confounding variables are included in regression analyses. Alternatively, where there is a non-significant correlation between change in bone turnover markers and one of these outcomes, the association may change and become significant when other predictive factors are included in a multivariate regression analysis. Either way, assessing the association between changes in bone turnover markers and any outcome in isolation, without adjusting for confounders within a multivariate regression analysis, is unlikely to reflect the true association between these variables within a patient; it was impossible to draw any conclusion as to whether or not these bone turnover markers were able to identify treatment non-responders and predict fracture risk independently of BMD measurements in patients receiving osteoporosis treatment.

It should be noted that the results from the studies utilising correlation and regression analyses were inconsistent. This may be due to the considerable clinical heterogeneity across the included studies in terms of the definitions used to identify those with osteoporosis for inclusion in the studies, patient

populations recruited, the treatment regimens administered, and the type and timing of the tests being evaluated. Most of the included studies had small sample sizes, resulting in low statistical power to detect a significant association.

The analysis of test reliability and reproducibility in women being treated for osteoporosis was limited; very few studies reported these data. Test reliability and reproducibility is most commonly measured in either healthy individuals or control subjects who are not receiving treatment. Although this provides baseline intraindividual and interindividual CVs and a S/N ratio, it does not inform us as to how these tests perform in women receiving treatment. Whether receiving treatment would increase or decrease these measures of variability is unknown.

The lack of any published decision-analytic models investigating the decision problem being addressed in this review, and the lack of evidence on the effectiveness of monitoring treatment response using bone turnover markers, meant that the cost-effectiveness of different monitoring strategies could not be investigated at this time. In order to construct such a model, the large gaps in the current evidence base will need to be filled. We identified these gaps and the data required for a future cost effectiveness analysis of different monitoring strategies and discussed how these data could be obtained in *Chapter 4* (see *Economic model*). The uncertainties that remain and research priorities are highlighted in the section below and in *Chapter 6* (see *Suggested research priorities*), respectively.

## Uncertainties

There are currently large gaps in the evidence base relating to the use of bone turnover markers for monitoring osteoporosis treatment. These include:

- the ability of changes in bone turnover markers to identify treatment non-responders
- the ability of changes in bone turnover markers to impact on compliance, persistence and adherence to each of the treatments being evaluated
- the accuracy of changes in bone turnover markers to predict future fracture risk
- the ability of bone turnover markers to inform treatment change
- the most appropriate timing of the conduct of bone turnover marker testing; this may vary depending on the treatment–test combination
- which bone turnover marker is superior in terms of its ability to identify treatment non-responder and predict fracture risks for monitoring specific osteoporosis treatments
- the reliability and reproducibility of bone turnover marker tests in patients receiving treatment for osteoporosis
- the most cost-effective monitoring regimen for patients being treated with bisphosphonates, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, teriparatide or denosumab.



## Chapter 6 Conclusions

### Implications for service provision

The lack of evidence of clinical effectiveness, and the heterogeneity and poor quality of the available evidence on the accuracy, reliability and reproducibility of bone turnover markers for monitoring response to osteoporosis treatment, precluded the possibility of making any recommendations on the choice of bone turnover marker being used in routine clinical practice for its superiority to monitor osteoporosis treatment response. In addition, the evidence to support the use of bone turnover marker feedback results to improve patient adherence to osteoporosis treatment was not convincing.

### Suggested research priorities

In order to determine whether or not bone turnover marker monitoring improves treatment management decisions and ultimately impacts on patient outcomes in terms of reduced incidence of fracture, RCTs are required. The predictive accuracy of bone turnover markers for future fracture outcomes in patients receiving osteoporosis treatment could be investigated using prospective, long-term observational studies with large sample sizes. However, as the nature of bone turnover marker response is determined by the mechanism of action of the drug, any future research needs to identify the most appropriate treatment–test combinations in order to identify whether or not the predictive accuracy of a particular bone turnover marker can be maximised to aid treatment management decisions. All future studies should adopt a standardised definition of osteoporosis, such as the WHO criteria.<sup>7</sup>

There are potentially a large number of patient population–treatment–test combinations; therefore, conducting RCTs or even larger observational studies to establish the effectiveness for all of these combinations would not be feasible. Therefore, it is likely that identifying the most promising combinations would be beneficial in order to ensure that the most promising are evaluated in the more costly and time-consuming studies such as RCTs. This would include not only identifying which bone turnover test best identifies non-responders to specific treatments, but also the optimal timing of these tests. This may feasibly be achieved through the use of a patient registry, where relevant pre-specified standardised data would be collected and trends both in the use of different tests and in outcomes related to test–treatment combinations could be identified. However, without more widespread use of these tests in clinical practice, the usefulness of such a registry would be questionable. If a registry is not established, a survey of the current use of bone turnover markers may be useful. An alternative to establishing a registry to identify promising test–treatment combinations might be to undertake smaller, less costly studies that identify those treatment–bone turnover marker combinations that have the lowest inter- and intraindividual patient variability (and therefore a higher S/N ratio). These smaller feasibility studies could be used to help to identify the most promising combinations for future more costly research. Such studies would be of use only when conducted in the context of establishing inter- and intraindividual patient variability in bone turnover markers and would not be useful if the decision was made to either establish a patient registry, or if there was considered to be sufficient experience within the clinical setting already available to identify treatment-test combinations that could be evaluated in effectiveness studies.

To further limit the number of RCTs and other costly and time-consuming research, there are some areas of uncertainty that could be classified as low priority. These could be investigated initially within a decision-analytic framework, once sufficient evidence becomes available on monitoring effectiveness and the predictive value of bone turnover markers. By using this strategy, those areas of uncertainty that are key drivers of cost-effectiveness can be identified. Further research can then focus on investigating the impact of those areas of uncertainty that most influence the cost-effectiveness of the monitoring regimens, rather than being conducted to inform those estimates and assumptions to which the cost-effectiveness analysis is robust.

We consider that the research priority is to identify the most promising treatment–test combinations. This can be achieved either by conducting small variability studies or, if more widespread use is feasible, by initiating a patient registry to collect data. The former would be quicker, easier and less costly, but the quality of the data would be poorer and likely to be collected in small selected populations. This would mean that the results may not reflect the broader population seen in clinical practice, and the choices made as to which treatment–test combinations to evaluate in a RCT may be inappropriate. Once the most promising treatment–test combinations have been identified, well-designed RCTs can be conducted to evaluate the clinical effectiveness of those monitoring regimens; this would include measuring outcomes such as the proportion of non-responders, adherence rates, treatment management decisions, and fracture outcome. Data from these RCTs along with other sources can then be included in a decision-analytic model in order to investigate cost-effectiveness.

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## Contributions of authors

**Dr Jane Burch:** researcher responsible for study selection, data extraction, validity assessment, narrative synthesis of the clinical evidence and writing the clinical sections of the report, and providing comments on drafts of the economic sections of the report.

**Mr Stephen Rice:** researcher contributing to study selection, data extraction, validity assessment, data synthesis, responsible for writing the economic sections of the report and providing comments on drafts of the clinical sections of the report.

**Dr Huiqin Yang:** researcher contributing to study selection, data extraction, validity assessment, data synthesis and writing clinical sections of the report, and providing comments on drafts of the economic sections of the report.

**Ms Aileen Neilson:** researcher contributing to study selection, data extraction, validity assessment, data synthesis and writing economic sections of the report, and providing comments on drafts of the clinical sections of the report.

**Mrs Lisa Stirk:** developed search strategies and conducted a range of searches to locate studies, wrote the methodological sections relating to the search and provided comments on drafts of the report.

**Professor Roger Frances:** provided clinical advice throughout the project and comments on drafts of the protocol and report.

**Dr Paul Holloway:** provided clinical advice and comments on drafts of the protocol and report.

**Professor Peter Selby:** provided clinical advice and comments on drafts of the report.

**Ms Dawn Craig:** took overall managerial responsibility for the project, contributed to all aspects of the project, and provided comments on drafts of the report.



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# Appendix 1 Literature search strategies

## MEDLINE and MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations (Ovid)

Date range: 1946–February week 4 2012.

Date searched: 7 March 2012.

Records found: 1733.

### Search terms

1. (P1NP or PINP).ti,ab. (593)
2. (procollagen adj3 propeptide).ti,ab. (429)
3. (procollagen adj3 peptide).ti,ab. (557)
4. (collagen adj3 propeptide).ti,ab. (191)
5. (BSAP or BALP or BAP).ti,ab. and (bone or bones or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$.af. (1090)
6. bone specific alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (1196)
7. bone alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (1153)
8. bone source alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (1)
9. (CTX or NTX).ti,ab. and (bone or bones or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$.af. (2032)
10. crosslaps.ti,ab. (296)
11. (telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (668)
12. (n-telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (214)
13. (c-telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (184)
14. bone turnover marker\$.ti,ab. (1333)
15. bone metabolic marker\$.ti,ab. (190)
16. Biological Markers/ and exp "Bone and Bones"/ (3520)
17. ((biochemical marker\$ or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$) adj2 bone\$.ti,ab. (2261)
18. bone marker\$.ti,ab. (1437)
19. or/1-18 (10656)

### Line 19 captures bone turnover marker terms

20. exp osteoporosis/ (39,832)
21. osteoporo\$.ti,ab. (43,304)
22. 20 or 21 (55,772)

### Line 22 captures osteoporosis terms

23. diphosphonates/ or alendronate/ or clodronic acid/ or etidronic acid/ (15,156)
24. (bisphosphonate\$ or diphosphonate\$.af. (17,117)
25. (alendronate or alendronic acid or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesis or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal).af. (4270)

26. (clodronate or clodronic acid or bonefos or loron or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostac or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat).af. (1827)
27. (etidronate or etidronic acid or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or feminoflex or maxibral or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum).af. (7341)
28. (ibandronic acid or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat).af. (766)
29. (pamidronate or pamidronic acid or aredia or ADP sodium or aminomux or pamdosa or pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten or xinsidona).af. (2470)
30. (risedronate or risedronic acid or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or optinate or risofos or benet or acrel).af. (2039)
31. (zoledronic acid or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria).af. (2319)
32. (tiludronic acid or tiludronate or skelid).af. (139)
33. (neridronic acid or neridronate or nerixia).af. (63)
34. (olpadronic acid or olpadronate).af. (73)
35. (cimadronic acid or cimadronate).af. (92)
36. (piridronic acid or piridronate).af. (0)
37. (icandronic acid or icandronate or bisphonal).af. (1)
38. (minodronic acid or minodronate).af. (57)
39. (raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax or estroact or ralista or celvista).af. (2870)
40. Raloxifene/ (2063)
41. (strontium ranelate or protelos).af. (421)
42. Teriparatide/ (1167)
43. (denosumab or prolia or xgeva).af. (504)
44. (teriparatide or forteo or forsteo).ti,ab. (587)
45. (treatment\$ or treat or treated or treats).ti,ab. (3,156,022)
46. dt.fs. (1,504,349)
47. or/23-46 (3,906,922)

**Line 47 captures intervention terms**

48. 19 and 22 and 47 (1879)

**Line 48 combines bone turnover marker, osteoporosis and intervention terms**

49. exp animals/ not humans/ (3,667,503)
50. 48 not 49 (1733)

**Line 50 excludes animal-only studies**

**Key**

/ = indexing term [medical subject heading (MeSH) heading]

exp = exploded MeSH heading

\$ = truncation

.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields

.af. = terms in all fields

.fs. = floating subheading – searches all MeSH terms which use that subheading

adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)

adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

adj3 = terms within three words of each other (any order)

## Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (EBSCOhost)

Date range: 1982–date.

Date searched: 7 March 2012.

Records found: 155.

### Search terms

S48 S21 and S24 and S47 (155)

S47 S25 or S26 or S27 or S28 or S29 or S30 or S31 or S32 or S33 or S34 or S35 or S36 or S37 or S38 or S39 or S40 or S41 or S42 or S43 or S44 or S45 or S46 (330,229)

S46 treatment\* or treat or treated or treats (327,921)

S45 teriparatide or forteo or forsteo (102)

S44 denosumab or prolia or xgeva (108)

S43 "strontium ranelate" or protelos (41)

S42 (MH "Raloxifene") (441)

S41 raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax or estroact or ralista or celvista (636)

S40 "minodronic acid" or minodronate (1)

S39 "icandronic acid" or icandronate or bisphonal (0)

S38 "piridronic acid" or piridronate (0)

S37 "cimadronic acid" or cimadronate (0)

S36 "olpadronic acid" or olpadronate (3)

S35 "neridronic acid" or neridronate or nerixia (4)

S34 "tiludronic acid" or tiludronate or skelid (4)

S33 "zoledronic acid" or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria (367)

S32 risedronate or "risedronic acid" or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or optinate or risofos or benet or acrel (238)

S31 pamidronate or "pamidronic acid" or aredia or "ADP sodium" or aminomux or pamdosa or pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten or xinsidona (223)

S30 "ibandronic acid" or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat (109)

S29 etidronate or "etidronic acid" or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or feminoflex or maxibral or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum (172)

S28 clodronate or "clodronic acid" or bonefos or loron or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostac or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat (85)

S27 alendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesi or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosalendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesi or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex

or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal (765)  
 S26 bisphosphonate\* or diphosphonate\* (3182)  
 S25 (MH "Diphosphonates") or (MH "alendronate") (3160)  
 S24 S22 or S23 (10,599)  
 S23 osteoporo\* (10,505)  
 S22 (MH "Osteoporosis+") (8995)  
 S21 S1 or S2 or S3 or S4 or S5 or S6 or S7 or S8 or S9 or S10 or S11 or S12 or S13 or S14 or S15 or S16 or S17 or S20 (772)  
 S20 S18 and S19 (164)  
 S19 (MH "Bone and Bones") (2891)  
 S18 (MH "Biological Markers") (12,859)  
 S17 "bone marker\*" (108)  
 S16 ("biochemical marker\*" or biomarker\* or "biological marker\*") n2 bone\* (224)  
 S15 "bone metabolic marker\*" (4)  
 S14 "bone turnover marker\*" (129)  
 S13 c-telopeptide\* n3 collagen (44)  
 S12 n-telopeptide\* n3 collagen (42)  
 S11 telopeptide\* n3 collagen (168)  
 S10 crosslaps (16)  
 S9 (CTX or NTX) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*) (143)  
 S8 "bone source alkaline phosphatase\*" (0)  
 S7 "bone alkaline phosphatase\*" (57)  
 S6 "bone specific alkaline phosphatase\*" (101)  
 S5 (BSAP or BALP or BAP) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*) (61)  
 S4 collagen n3 propeptide (37)  
 S3 procollagen n3 peptide (18)  
 S2 procollagen n3 propeptide (45)  
 S1 P1NP or PINP (25)

### Key

MH = indexing term (CINAHL heading)

+ = exploded CINAHL heading

\* = truncation

? = embedded truncation

" " = phrase search

n2 = terms within one word of each other (any order)

n3 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

### ClinicalTrials.gov

URL: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).

Date searched: 13 March 2012.

Records found: 98.

### Search terms

osteoporosis AND ("bone markers" OR "bone turnover markers")

### Key

" " = phrase search

## The Cochrane Library

Issue 2 of 12 February 2012.

Date searched: 12 March 2012.

Records found:

- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 30
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) 5
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials 496
- NHS Economic Evaluation Database 1
- Health Technology Assessment Database 4

### Search terms

- #1 P1NP or PINP (133)
- #2 procollagen near/3 propeptide (68)
- #3 procollagen near/3 peptide (140)
- #4 collagen near/3 propeptide (26)
- #5 (BSAP or BALP or BAP) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*) (189)
- #6 "bone specific alkaline phosphatase\*" (385)
- #7 "bone alkaline phosphatase\*" (189)
- #8 "bone source alkaline phosphatase\*" (0)
- #9 (CTX or NTX) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*) (464)
- #10 crosslaps (55)
- #11 telopeptide\* near/3 collagen (152)
- #12 "n-telopeptide\*" near/3 collagen (37)
- #13 "c-telopeptide\*" near/3 collagen (45)
- #14 "bone turnover marker\*" (23)
- #15 "bone metabolic marker\*" (3)
- #16 ("biochemical marker\*" or biomarker\* or "biological marker\*") near/2 bone\* (108)
- #17 "bone marker\*" (55)
- #18 MeSH descriptor Biological Markers, this term only (6199)
- #19 MeSH descriptor Bone and Bones, this term only (1156)
- #20 (#18 AND #19) (258)
- #21 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #20) (1370)
- #22 MeSH descriptor Osteoporosis explode all trees (2750)
- #23 osteopor\* (4841)
- #24 (#22 OR #23) (4841)
- #25 MeSH descriptor Diphosphonates, this term only (738)
- #26 MeSH descriptor Alendronate, this term only (498)
- #27 MeSH descriptor Clodronic Acid, this term only (166)
- #28 MeSH descriptor Etidronic Acid, this term only (370)
- #29 bisphosphonate\* or diphosphonate\* (1336)

- #30 alendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesis or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral (775)
- #31 osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosalalendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax (107)
- #32 actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesis or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan (51)
- #33 (osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren) (2)
- #34 leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos (0)
- #35 fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal (22)
- #36 clodronate or "clodronic acid" or bonefos or loron or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostac or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat (290)
- #37 etidronate or "etidronic acid" or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or feminoflex or maxibral or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum (535)
- #38 "ibandronic acid" or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat (177)
- #39 pamidronate or "pamidronic acid" or aredia or "ADP sodium" or aminomux or pamdosa or pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten or xinsidona (422)
- #40 risedronate or "risedronic acid" or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or optinate or risofos or benet or acrel (350)
- #41 "zoledronic acid" or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria (373)
- #42 "tiludronic acid" or tiludronate or skelid (29)
- #43 "neridronic acid" or neridronate or nerixia (23)
- #44 "olpadronic acid" or olpadronate (12)
- #45 "cimadronic acid" or cimadronate (0)
- #46 "piridronic acid" or piridronate (0)
- #47 "icandronic acid" or icandronate or bisphonal (0)
- #48 "minodronic acid" or minodronate (2)
- #49 raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax or estroact or ralista or celvista (578)
- #50 MeSH descriptor Raloxifene, this term only (373)
- #51 "strontium ranelate" or protelos (59)
- #52 denosumab or prolia or xgeva (64)
- #53 MeSH descriptor Teriparatide, this term only (126)
- #54 treatment\* or treat or treated or treats (330,609)
- #55 (#25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31 OR #32 OR #33 OR #34 OR #35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39 OR #40) (2500)
- #56 (#41 OR #42 OR #43 OR #44 OR #45 OR #46 OR #47 OR #48 OR #49 OR #50 OR #51 OR #52 OR #53 OR #54) (330,912)
- #57 (#55 OR #56) (331,447)
- #58 (#21 AND #24 AND #57) (536)

**Key**

MeSH descriptor = indexing term (MeSH heading)

\* = truncation

" " = phrase search

near/2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

near/3 = terms within three words of each other (any order)

## Conference Proceedings Citation Index – Science (Web of Science)

Date range: 1990–date.

Date searched: 12 March 2012.

Records found: 197.

### Search terms

# 45 #44 AND #19 AND #18

# 44 #43 OR #42 OR #41 OR #40 OR #39 OR #38 OR #37 OR #36 OR #35 OR #34 OR #33 OR #32  
OR #31 OR #30 OR #29 OR #28 OR #27 OR #26 OR #25 OR #24 OR #23 OR #22 OR #21 OR #20

# 43 Topic=(treatment\* or treat or treated or treats)

# 42 Topic=(denosumab or prolia or xgeva)

# 41 Topic=("strontium ranelate" or protelos)

# 40 Topic=(raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax  
or estroact or ralista or celvista)

# 39 Topic=("minodronic acid" or minodronate)

# 38 Topic=("icandronic acid" or icandronate or bisphonal)

# 37 Topic=("piridronic acid" or piridronate)

# 36 Topic=("cimadronic acid" or cimadronate)

# 35 Topic=("olpadronic acid" or olpadronate)

# 34 Topic=("neridronic acid" or neridronate or nerixia)

# 33 Topic=("tiludronic acid" or tiludronate or skelid)

# 32 Topic=("zoledronic acid" or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria)

# 31 Topic=(risedronate or "risedronic acid" or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or  
optinate or risofos or benet or acrel)

# 30 Topic=(pamidronate or "pamidronic acid" or aredia or "ADP sodium" or aminomux or pamdosa or  
pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten  
or xinsidona)

# 29 Topic=("ibandronic acid" or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat)

# 28 Topic=(etidronate or "etidronic acid" or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or  
bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or  
feminoflex or maxibral or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex  
or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum)

# 27 Topic=(clodronate or "clodronic acid" or bonefos or loron or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostac  
or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or  
niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat)

# 26 Topic=(fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or  
landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal)

# 25 Topic=(leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa  
or osteofos)

# 24 Topic=(osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval  
or holadren)

# 23 Topic=(actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesi or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan)  
 # 22 Topic=(osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalart or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosalalendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax)  
 # 21 Topic=(alendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesi or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral)  
 # 20 Topic=(bisphosphonate\* or diphosphonate\*)  
 # 19 Topic=(osteopor\*)  
 # 18 #17 OR #16 OR #15 OR #14 OR #13 OR #12 OR #11 OR #10 OR #9 OR #8 OR #7 OR #6 OR #5 OR #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1  
 # 17 Topic=("bone marker\*")  
 # 16 Topic=(("biochemical marker\*" or biomarker\* or "biological marker\*") near/2 bone\*)  
 # 15 Topic=("bone metabolic marker\*")  
 # 14 Topic=("bone turnover marker\*")  
 # 13 Topic=("c-telopeptide\*" near/3 collagen)  
 # 12 Topic=("n-telopeptide\*" near/3 collagen)  
 # 11 Topic=(telopeptide\* near/3 collagen)  
 # 10 Topic=(crosslaps)  
 # 9 Topic=((CTX or NTX) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*))  
 # 8 Topic=("bone source alkaline phosphatase\*")  
 # 7 Topic=("bone alkaline phosphatase\*")  
 # 6 Topic=("bone specific alkaline phosphatase\*")  
 # 5 Topic=((BSAP or BALP or BAP) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*))  
 # 4 Topic=(collagen near/3 propeptide)  
 # 3 Topic=(procollagen near/3 peptide)  
 # 2 Topic=(procollagen near/3 propeptide)  
 # 1 Topic=(P1NP or PINP)

Limits: Lemmatization – OFF

### Key

Topic = terms in Title, Abstract, Author Keywords and Keywords Plus fields

\* = truncation

? = embedded truncation

" " = phrase search

near/2 = terms within one word of each other (any order)

near/3 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

### Controlled-Trials.com

URL: <http://controlled-trials.com>.

Date searched: 13 March 2012.

Records found: 99.

**Search terms**

osteoporosis AND ("bone markers" OR "bone turnover markers")

**Key**

" " = phrase search

**EconLit (Ovid)**

Date range: 1961–February 2012.

Date searched: 7 March 2012.

Records found: none.

**Search terms**

1. (P1NP or PINP).ti,ab. (0)
2. (procollagen adj3 propeptide).ti,ab. (0)
3. (procollagen adj3 peptide).ti,ab. (0)
4. (collagen adj3 propeptide).ti,ab. (0)
5. (BSAP or BALP or BAP).ti,ab. and (bone or bones or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$.af. (0)
6. bone specific alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (0)
7. bone alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (0)
8. bone source alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (0)
9. (CTX or NTX).ti,ab. and (bone or bones or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$.af. (0)
10. crosslaps.ti,ab. (0)
11. (telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (0)
12. (n-telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (0)
13. (c-telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (0)
14. bone turnover marker\$.ti,ab. (0)
15. bone metabolic marker\$.ti,ab. (0)
16. ((biochemical marker\$ or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$) adj2 bone\$.ti,ab. (0)
17. bone marker\$.ti,ab. (0)
18. or/1-17 (0)
19. osteoporos\$.ti,ab. (24)
20. (bisphosphonate\$ or diphosphonate\$.af. (2)
21. (alendronate or alendronic acid or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regenesis or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal).af. (5)
22. (clodronate or clodronic acid or bonefos or lonon or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostac or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat).af. (0)
23. (etidronate or etidronic acid or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or feminoflex or maxibral or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum).af. (0)
24. (ibandronic acid or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat).af. (0)

25. (pamidronate or pamidronic acid or aredia or ADP sodium or aminomux or pamdosa or pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten or xinsidona).af. (0)
26. (risedronate or risedronic acid or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or optinate or risofos or benet or acrel).af. (7)
27. (zoledronic acid or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria).af. (1)
28. (tiludronic acid or tiludronate or skelid).af. (1)
29. (neridronic acid or neridronate or nerixia).af. (0)
30. (olpadronic acid or olpadronate).af. (0)
31. (cimadronic acid or cimadronate).af. (0)
32. (piridronic acid or piridronate).af. (0)
33. (icandronic acid or icandronate or bisphonal).af. (0)
34. (minodronic acid or minodronate).af. (0)
35. (raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax or estroact or ralista or celvista).af. (2)
36. (strontium ranelate or protelos).af. (0)
37. (teriparatide or forteo or forsteo).ti,ab. (0)
38. (denosumab or prolia or xgeva).af. (0)
39. (treatment\$ or treat or treated or treats).ti,ab. (15,352)
40. or/20-39 (15363)
41. 18 and 19 and 40 (0)

### Key

\$ = truncation

.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields

.af. = terms in all fields

adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)

adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

adj3 = terms within three words of each other (any order)

### EMBASE (Ovid)

Date range: 1974–6 March 2012.

Date searched: 7 March 2012.

Records found: 2495.

### Search terms

1. (P1NP or PINP).ti,ab. (908)
2. (procollagen adj3 propeptide).ti,ab. (511)
3. (procollagen adj3 peptide).ti,ab. (663)
4. (collagen adj3 propeptide).ti,ab. (225)
5. (BSAP or BALP or BAP).ti,ab. and (bone or bones or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$).af. (1440)
6. bone specific alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (1388)
7. bone alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (1421)
8. bone source alkaline phosphatase\$.ti,ab. (1)
9. (CTX or NTX).ti,ab. and (bone or bones or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$).af. (2846)
10. crosslaps.ti,ab. (429)
11. (telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (839)
12. (n-telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (251)
13. (c-telopeptide\$ adj3 collagen).ti,ab. (228)

14. bone turnover marker\$.ti,ab. (1780)
15. bone metabolic marker\$.ti,ab. (232)
16. (marker/ or biochemical marker/ or biological marker/ or disease marker/) and (bone/ or bone turnover/ (3965)
17. ((biochemical marker\$ or biomarker\$ or biological marker\$) adj2 bone\$.ti,ab. (2782)
18. bone marker\$.ti,ab. (1800)
19. or/1-18 (12,593)
20. exp osteoporosis/ (75,240)
21. osteoporos\$.ti,ab. (58,711)
22. 20 or 21 (88,169)
23. bisphosphonic acid derivative/ or alendronic acid/ or clodronic acid/ or etidronic acid/ (29,528)
24. (bisphosphonate\$ or diphosphonate\$).af. (16,503)
25. (alendronate or alendronic acid or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regeneration or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal).af. (14,288)
26. (clodronate or clodronic acid or bonefos or laron or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostac or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat).af. (4623)
27. (etidronate or etidronic acid or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or feminoflex or maxibril or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum).af. (7748)
28. (ibandronic acid or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat).af. (3253)
29. (pamidronate or pamidronic acid or aredia or ADP sodium or aminomux or pamdosa or pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten or xinsidona).af. (7680)
30. (risedronate or risedronic acid or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or optinate or risofos or benet or acrel).af. (6164)
31. (zoledronic acid or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria).af. (7257)
32. (tiludronic acid or tiludronate or skelid).af. (744)
33. (neridronic acid or neridronate or nerixia).af. (266)
34. (olpadronic acid or olpadronate).af. (242)
35. (cimadronic acid or cimadronate).af. (9)
36. (piridronic acid or piridronate).af. (0)
37. (icandronic acid or icandronate or bisphonal).af. (2)
38. (minodronic acid or minodronate).af. (182)
39. (raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax or estroact or ralista or celvista).af. (8201)
40. raloxifene/ (7977)
41. (strontium ranelate or protelos).af. (1325)
42. "parathyroid hormone[1-34]"/ (3339)
43. (teriparatide or forteo or forsteo).ti,ab. (913)
44. (denosumab or prolia or xgeva).af. (1737)
45. (treatment\$ or treat or treated or treats).ti,ab. (3,950,972)
46. dt.fs. (2,648,356)
47. or/23-46 (5,432,565)
48. 19 and 22 and 47 (2670)
49. exp animal/ or exp nonhuman/ (5,469,091)

50. exp human/ (13070114)  
 51. 49 not (49 and 50) (4,361,154)  
 52. 48 not 5 (2495)

### Key

/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)

exp = exploded EMTREE heading

\$ = truncation

.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields

.af. = terms in all fields

.fs. = floating subheading – searches all EMTREE terms which use that subheading

adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)

adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

adj3 = terms within three words of each other (any order)

## Paid Clinical Trials

URL: [www.paidclinicaltrials.org](http://www.paidclinicaltrials.org).

Date searched: 1 May 2012.

Records found: none.

### Search terms

Browsed: osteoporosis

## Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science)

Date range: 1899–date.

Date searched: 12 March 2012.

Records found: 2085.

### Search terms

# 45 #44 AND #19 AND #18

# 44 #43 OR #42 OR #41 OR #40 OR #39 OR #38 OR #37 OR #36 OR #35 OR #34 OR #33 OR #32  
 OR #31 OR #30 OR #29 OR #28 OR #27 OR #26 OR #25 OR #24 OR #23 OR #22 OR #21 OR #20

# 43 Topic=(treatment\* or treat or treated or treats)

# 42 Topic=(denosumab or prolia or xgeva)

# 41 Topic=("strontium ranelate" or protelos)

# 40 Topic=(raloxifene or biofem or ciclotran or evista or ketidin or loxifen or raxeto or opruma or bonmax  
 or estroact or ralista or celvista)

# 39 Topic=("minodronic acid" or minodronate)

# 38 Topic=("icandronic acid" or icandronate or bisphonal)

# 37 Topic=("piridronic acid" or piridronate)

# 36 Topic=("cimadronic acid" or cimadronate)

# 35 Topic=("olpadronic acid" or olpadronate)

# 34 Topic=("neridronic acid" or neridronate or nerixia)

# 33 Topic=("tiludronic acid" or tiludronate or skelid)

# 32 Topic=("zoledronic acid" or zoledronate or zometa or zomera or aclasta or reclast or zoldria)

- # 31 Topic=(risedronate or "risedronic acid" or actonel or ductonar or ribastamin or ridron or risedon or optinate or risofos or benet or acrel)
- # 30 Topic=(pamidronate or "pamidronic acid" or aredia or "ADP sodium" or aminomux or pamdosa or pandrat or pamisol or pamitor or osteopam or aredronet or pamidria or pamifos or pamidran or linoten or xinsidona)
- # 29 Topic=("ibandronic acid" or ibandronate or boniva or bondronat or bonviva or bandrobon or bonat)
- # 28 Topic=(etidronate or "etidronic acid" or EHDP or didronel or difosfen or detidron or osteodidronel or bonemass or osteotop or didronate or diphos or anfozan or biotredine or dralen or etidron or etiplus or feminoflex or maxibral or oflocin or osfo or ostedron or osteodrug or osteoton or ostogene or somaflex or sterodome or sviroxit or tilferan or dronate-os or etidrate or osteum)
- # 27 Topic=(clodronate or "clodronic acid" or bonefos or loron or clodron or lodronat or ascredar or ostarac or clastoban or lytos or clasteon or climaclod or clodeosten or clody or difosfonal or dolkin or moticlod or niklod or ossiten or osteonorm or osteostab or mebonat)
- # 26 Topic=(fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosal)
- # 25 Topic=(leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos)
- # 24 Topic=(osteofar or osteoform or osteoral or osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren)
- # 23 Topic=(actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regeneration or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan)
- # 22 Topic=(osteotrat or recalfe or terost or aldrex or fosval or holadren or leodrin or oseotal or osteofem or osteosan or alefos or fosalen or ostalert or bifosa or osteofos or fosalan or maxibone or adronat or alendros or dronal or genalen or onclast or drovitan or landrolen or sinfract or aldronac or aliot or denfos or fixopan or genalmen or osteodur or porosalendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax)
- # 21 Topic=(alendronate or "alendronic acid" or fosamax or actimax or alenato or arendal or berlex or brek or elandur or findeclin or lafedam or lendronal or marvil or maxtral or oseotenk or osteofene or osteonate or phostarac or regeneration or silidral or tilios or bonalen or cleveron or endronax or minusorb or norvic or osdron or ossomax or ostenan or osteofar or osteoform or osteoral)
- # 20 Topic=(bisphosphonate\* or diphosphonate\*)
- # 19 Topic=(osteoporo\*)
- # 18 #17 OR #16 OR #15 OR #14 OR #13 OR #12 OR #11 OR #10 OR #9 OR #8 OR #7 OR #6 OR #5 OR #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1
- # 17 Topic=("bone marker\*")
- # 16 Topic=(("biochemical marker\*" or biomarker\* or "biological marker\*") near/2 bone\*)
- # 15 Topic=("bone metabolic marker\*")
- # 14 Topic=("bone turnover marker\*")
- # 13 Topic=("c-telopeptide\*" near/3 collagen)
- # 12 Topic=("n-telopeptide\*" near/3 collagen)
- # 11 Topic=(telopeptide\* near/3 collagen)
- # 10 Topic=(crosslaps)
- # 9 Topic=((CTX or NTX) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*))
- # 8 Topic=("bone source alkaline phosphatase\*")
- # 7 Topic=("bone alkaline phosphatase\*")
- # 6 Topic=("bone specific alkaline phosphatase\*")
- # 5 Topic=((BSAP or BALP or BAP) and (bone or bones or biomarker\* or biological marker\*))
- # 4 Topic=(collagen near/3 propeptide)
- # 3 Topic=(procollagen near/3 peptide)
- # 2 Topic=(procollagen near/3 propeptide)
- # 1 Topic=(P1NP or PINP)

**Key**

Topic = terms in Title, Abstract, Author Keywords and Keywords Plus fields

\* = truncation

? = embedded truncation

" " = phrase search

near/2 = terms within one word of each other (any order)

near/3 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

**IDEAS database**

URL: <http://ideas.repec.org>.

Date searched: 15 May 2012

Records found: nine [after hand-sifting for relevance].

**Search terms**

treatment AND adherence [title]

treatment AND monitoring [title]

treatment AND compliance [title]

osteoporosis AND adherence [title]

osteoporosis AND monitoring [title]

osteoporosis AND compliance [title]

**Health Economic Evaluations Database**

URL: [www.cochrane.org/intranet/resources-databases/health-economics-evaluation-database-heed](http://www.cochrane.org/intranet/resources-databases/health-economics-evaluation-database-heed).

**Search 1**

Date range: all to date.

Date searched: 13 March 2012.

Records found: six.

**Search terms**

*All data:* osteoporosis

AND

*All data:* marker\*

### Search 2

Date range: all to date.

Date searched: 15 May 2012.

Records found: 49.

#### Search terms

*All data:* osteoporosis

AND

*All data:* monitor\* or adher\* or comply or compliance or complies or complied

### Search 3

Date range: all to date.

Date searched: 15 May 2012.

Records found: seven.

#### Search terms

*All data:* 'treatment monitoring'

OR

*All data:* 'monitoring treatment'

OR

*All data:* 'monitor treatment'

#### Key

\* = truncation

' ' = phrase searching

## NHS Economic Evaluation Database

The Cochrane Library, Issue 4 of 12 April 2012.

Date searched: 15 May 2012.

Records found: 79.

**Search terms**

- #1 MeSH descriptor Osteoporosis explode all trees 2785
- #2 osteopor\* 4914
- #3 MeSH descriptor Patient Acceptance of Health Care explode all trees 16,473
- #4 monitor\* or adher\* or comply or compliance or complies or complied 56,037
- #5 (#1 OR #2) 4914
- #6 (#3 OR #4) 64,274
- #7 (#5 AND #6) 930
- #8 treatment NEAR/1 monitor\* 217
- #9 (#7 OR #8) 79 [NHS EED database only]

**Key**

MeSH descriptor = indexing term (MeSH heading)

\* = truncation

near/1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)

## Appendix 2 Results of and guidelines for the quality assessment

## Randomised controlled trials

	1. Randomisation method	2. Population representative	3. Allocation concealment	4. Control group selection	5. Baseline comparability	6. Blinding	7. Description: study aim	8. Description: intervention details
Delmas (2007) <sup>56</sup>	Y	N	Y	UC	Y	N	Y	N
Kung (2009) <sup>133</sup>	UC	N	UC	UC	Y	N	Y	N
Roche (2009) <sup>148</sup>	UC	Y	UC	UC	UC	N	Y	Y
Roche (2009) <sup>149</sup>	UC	N	UC	UC	UC	N	Y	Y
Roche (2007) <sup>143</sup>	UC	N	UC	UC	UC	N	Y	N

N, no; P, partially (modified ITT population); UC, unclear; Y, yes.

## Non-randomised controlled trials

	2. Study design: patient selection	3. Population representative	4. Control group selection	7. Description: study aim	8. Description: intervention details	9. Description: population details	10. Description: main findings
Miller (2008) <sup>38</sup>	Controlled cohort: consecutive recruitment	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ishijima (2009) <sup>154</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: consecutive recruitment	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Majima (2008) <sup>160</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: consecutive recruitment	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Shiraki (2011) <sup>142</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: consecutive recruitment	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Imai (2009) <sup>136</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: non-consecutive recruitment	N	NA	Y	N	N	Y
Delmas (2009) <sup>40</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc analysis of RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Tsujimoto (2011) <sup>146</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc analysis of RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Hochberg (2010) <sup>163</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc analysis of RCT	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Heaney (2011) <sup>162</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc analysis of RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Sarker (2004) <sup>164</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc analysis of RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Burshell (2010) <sup>14</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc subgroup analysis of RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Garnero (2008) <sup>41</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc subgroup analysis of RCT	N	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eastell (2003) <sup>137</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc subgroup analysis of RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y

9. Description: population details	10. Description: main findings	11. Loss to follow-up: characteristics described	12. Loss to follow-up: Reasons given	13. Loss to follow-up: taken into account in analysis	14. Loss to follow-up: imputation methods	15. Measure of variance	16. Adverse events reported	17. Duration of follow-up (years)	Overall quality
Y	Y	N	Y	P	UC	Y	N	<1	Low
Y	Y	N	Y	Some analyses	UC	Y	N	<1	Low
N	N	N	Y	Y	UC	N	N	<1	Low
Y	Y	N	N	Y	UC	N	N	≥1	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	UC	Y	N	<1	Low

11. Loss to follow-up: characteristics described	12. Loss to follow-up: reasons given	13. Loss to follow-up: taken into account in analysis	14. Loss to follow-up: imputation methods	15. Measure of variance	17. Duration of follow-up (years)	18. Confounders: clearly described	19. Confounders: adjusted for	Overall quality
N	N	P	UC	Y	≥1	N	N	Low
Y	Y	N	N	Y	<1	Y	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	N	≥1	N	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥1	N	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥1	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	Y	<1	N	N	Low
N	Y	UC	UC	N	<1	N	N	Low
N	N	UC	UC	Y	≥1	N	UC	Low
N	N	N	N	N	<1	N	N	Low
N	N	Y	Y	Y	UC	NA	NA	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥1	N	N	Low
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥1	NA	NA	Low
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥1	Y	N	Low

	2. Study design: patient selection	3. Population representative	4. Control group selection	7. Description: study aim	8. Description: intervention details	9. Description: population details	10. Description: main findings
Watts (2001) <sup>165</sup>	Derived cohort: post hoc subgroup analysis of RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Eastell (2011) <sup>43</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Bruyere (2010) <sup>161</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Reginster (2004) <sup>132</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Kitatani (2003) <sup>156</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Chen (2005) <sup>140</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Bjarnason (2001) <sup>151</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Lane (2000) <sup>159</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Dobnig (2005) <sup>152</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Bauer (2004) <sup>139</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Dobnig (2006) <sup>153</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	N	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clowes (2003) <sup>147</sup>	Derived cohort: treatment arm(s) from RCT	UC	NA	Y	N	N	Y
Blumsohn (2011) <sup>42</sup>	Derived cohort: RCT non-randomised extension	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Kim (2005) <sup>44</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	N	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Reyes-Garcia (2010) <sup>58</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Masaryk (2002) <sup>99</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	Y	NA	Y	N	N	Y
Kyd (1998) <sup>157</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kyd (1999) <sup>158</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Iwamoto (2005) <sup>131</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	Y	NA	Y	N	Y	Y
Iwamoto (2004) <sup>155</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y
Armstrong (2007) <sup>145</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	UC	NA	Y	N	N	N
Stepan (2008) <sup>150</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	UC	NA	Y	N	N	Y
Moro-Alvarez (2010) <sup>135</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	UC	NA	Y	N	N	N
Siddiqi (2010) <sup>106</sup>	Uncontrolled cohort: UC	N	NA	Y	N	N	N

N, no; NA, not applicable; P, partially (modified ITT population); UC, unclear; Y, yes.

11. Loss to follow-up: characteristics described	12. Loss to follow-up: reasons given	13. Loss to follow-up: taken into account in analysis	14. Loss to follow-up: imputation methods	15. Measure of variance	17. Duration of follow-up (years)	18. Confounders: clearly described	19. Confounders: adjusted for	Overall quality
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	Y	UC	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	Y	≥ 1	Y	N	Low
N	N	UC	UC	Y	≥ 1	N	UC	Low
N	Y	UC	UC	Y	< 1	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	N	U	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	Y	≥ 1	Y	Y	Low
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	< 1	N	UC	Low
N	N	UC	UC	Y	< 1	NA	NA	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
Y	Y	UC	UC	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	N	UC	UC	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	Y	N	N	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	N	UC	UC	N	≥ 1	Y	Y	Low
N	N	U	U	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	N	N	N	N	≥ 1	N	N	Low
N	N	UC	UC	N	≥ 1	N	N	Low
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	≥ 1	N	N	Low

## Guidelines for completing the quality assessment

### 1. Patient selection

Randomised – method appropriate: random numbers computer generated or number table, controlled by external source (pharmacy, biochemistry laboratory), or similar

Randomised – method not reported: date of birth, day of recruitment or similar

Randomised – no details: states patients were randomised but did not report method used

Consecutive recruitment: non-randomised study: all patients recruited consecutively

Non-consecutive recruitment: non-randomised study: selective recruiting

Post hoc analysis of prior RCT: results of patients recruited prospectively into a RCT were reanalysed

Post hoc analysis of prior cohort: results of patients recruited prospectively into a cohort study were reanalysed

Random selection (derived cohort): patients were recruited prospectively into a RCT comparing an antiresorptive drug of interest with placebo or an alternative drug; those receiving a drug of interest were treated in the review as a prospective cohort

Patients were selected for an open-label extension of a RCT

Unclear: 'patient selection' mentioned but no details as to method used

Not reported: no mention of a patient selection process, just number included in the study

### 2. Population representative

Yes: the population in the study is representative of that expected in clinical practice (i.e. a heterogeneous population of patients with osteoporosis or a study recruiting unselected post-menopausal women with osteoporosis); population details includes the drug regimen

No: the population in the study is not representative of that expected in clinical practice (i.e. it is in a subgroup of patients), a selected population of post-menopausal women, or it is a study in a heterogeneous population that excludes specific subgroups)

Unclear: there was insufficient information to determine whether or not the population in the study is representative of that expected in clinical practice

### 3. Allocation concealment

Method appropriate: sequentially numbered sealed opaque envelopes or containers, controlled by external source (pharmacy, biochemistry laboratory), or similar

Method inappropriate: the method used was not one of those stated above, for example date of birth, day of recruitment

Unclear: details regarding allocation concealment were not reported

Not applicable: single-arm study or data from a RCT used as a derived cohort

### 4. Control group selection appropriate

Yes: part of an adequate randomisation/allocation concealment in RCTs, or drawn from same population at the same time in observational studies

No: drawn from a different population or time (e.g. historical control)

Unclear: details regarding the selection of controls were not reported

Not applicable: single-arm study or data from a RCT used as a derived cohort

### 5. Baseline comparability

Yes: baseline characteristics were similar across groups

No: baseline characteristics were not similar across groups

Unclear: insufficient details provided to determine similarity across groups at baseline

Not applicable: single-arm study or data used as a derived cohort from a RCT

**6a. Blinding**

Unblinded: patients randomised but no blinding or controlled cohort study

Single-blind: reports being single-blind

Double-blind: reports being double-blind

Triple-blind: reports being triple-blind

Open-label extension: patients followed in extension of RCT where there was no continued blinding

Unclear: blinding status was not reported

Not applicable: single-arm study

**6b. Who was blinded**

Patients: clear statement that patients were blinded

Carers/investigators: clear statement that carers/investigators were blinded

Outcome assessors: clear statement that outcome assessors were blinded

Unclear: blinding was indicated but who was blinded was not specified

Not applicable: study was unblinded or a single-arm study

**7. Clear descriptions of study aim**

Yes: aim of the study clearly stated

No: no clear statement as to the aim of the study

**8. Clear descriptions of intervention details**

Yes: details of the bone turnover marker and other tests clearly stated to allow replication

No: insufficient details of the bone turnover marker and other tests to allow replication

**9. Clear descriptions of population details**

Yes: details of the population clearly stated to allow an assessment of the representativeness of the population

No: population not clearly described

**10. Clear descriptions of main findings**

Yes: main study findings clearly described

No: no clear description of the main findings

**11. Loss to follow-up: characteristics described**

Yes: the characteristics of those lost to follow-up sufficiently described to allow comparison with those who remained in the study, or a comparison was made between the two groups by the study authors and a statement made such as whether or not loss was random

No: characteristics of those who dropped out were not reported and no comparison with those who remained in the study was made

**12. Loss to follow-up: reasons given**

Yes: the reasons patients were lost to follow-up were given or there were no losses to follow-up

No: the reasons patients were lost to follow-up were not reported

**13. Loss to follow-up: taken into account in analysis**

Yes: patients lost to follow-up were included in the analysis or there were no losses to follow-up

No: a completer analysis was conducted

Unclear: it was unclear whether or not patients lost to follow-up were included in the analysis

**14. Loss to follow-up: imputation methods appropriate**

Yes: an ITT analysis, last observation or baseline carried forward, or best-/worst-case scenario analyses conducted (or there were no losses to follow-up)

No: other methods of imputation used, or data were not imputed and used in the analysis

Unclear: method of imputation not reported

**15. Measure of variance reported round estimates**

Yes: a measure of variance was reported around the point estimate

No: a measure of variance was not reported around the point estimate; this not inappropriate for a correlation coefficient

**16. Adverse events reported**

Yes: adverse events associated with the BMs were reported

No: adverse events associated with the BMs were not reported

Not applicable: the study was a derived cohort where BMs were an outcome measure not an intervention

**17. Duration of follow-up**

< 1 year: minimum follow-up was less than 1 year

≥ 1 year: follow-up was at least 1 year in all patients

Unclear: the duration of follow-up was not reported

**18. Confounders: clearly described**

Yes: potentially confounding factors described

No: potentially confounding factors not described

Not applicable: RCT with appropriate methods of randomisation

**19. Confounders: all important confounders adjusted for**

Yes: all important confounding factors (age, gender, prior fracture, baseline BMD, BMI) were adjusted for in the analysis

No: adjustments were made but not for all those considered important, or there was not adjustment for confounding factors

Unclear: it was not clear whether adjustments were made or, if they were, the variables adjusted for were not reported

Not applicable: RCT with appropriate methods of randomisation and ITT analysis

**Overall quality:**

**High:** the study is not subject to bias, or the bias/limitations of the study will not impact on the reliability of the results

**RCTs:** appropriate randomisation and allocation concealment methods used; patients, carers, investigators and outcome assessors blinded; ITT results reported using established imputation methods; minimum of 1-year follow-up in all patients

**Cohort studies:** patients were recruited consecutively from a representative population with a control group recruited from the same population, methods and interventions were clearly defined to allow repetition, all important confounders were identified and adjusted for in the analyses, and all patients were followed up for at least 1 year

**Derived cohorts from RCTs:** the cohort was derived from a RCT with appropriate randomisation and allocation concealment methods were used; patients, carers, investigators and outcome assessors blinded; ITT results reported; minimum of 1-year follow-up in all patients.

**Moderate:** the study is subject to bias/limitations, but these are unlikely to significantly impact on the reliability of the results

**RCTs:** appropriate randomisation and allocation concealment methods used but some imbalance at baseline in non-essential confounders; outcome assessors blinded; ITT results reported; mean/median follow-up at least 1 year

**Cohort studies:** patients were not recruited consecutively but were from a representative population with a control group recruited from the same population or patients were recruited consecutively from a representative population with no control group, methods and interventions were clearly defined to allow repetition, confounders were identified and adjusted for in the analyses, and the mean/median follow-up was 1 year or longer

**Derived cohorts:** the cohort was derived from a RCT where appropriate randomisation and allocation concealment methods were used; patients and outcome assessors blinded; ITT reported; mean/median follow-up at least 1 year

**Post hoc analyses:** the analysis was based on all the patients from a RCT with appropriate randomisation and allocation concealment methods were used; patients, carers, investigators and outcome assessors blinded; ITT results reported; minimum of 1-year follow-up in all patients

**Low:** the study is subject to bias/limitations, and these are likely to significantly impact on the reliability of the results

**RCTs:** the RCT fails to meet one of the essential criteria (appropriate randomisation or allocation concealment methods; blinding of patients and outcome assessors) or extreme imbalance at baseline in essential confounders, and follow-up was not at least 1 year in all patients

**Cohort studies:** patients were not recruited consecutively, there was no control group, important confounders were not identified and/or adjusted for in the analyses, and the minimum follow-up was not at least 1 year in all patients

**Derived cohorts:** the cohort was derived from a RCT that failed to meet one of the essential criteria (appropriate randomisation or allocation concealment methods; blinding of patients and outcome assessors) and follow-up was not at least 1 year in all patients

**Post hoc analyses:** the analysis was based on a subset of the patients from a RCT, all the patients from a RCT that would be considered as moderate or low quality, or patients from a cohort study

**Unclear:** there is insufficient information to judge the quality of the study

BM, bone turnover marker.



## Appendix 3 Excluded studies with rationale

### Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness evidence

Identified for full-paper screening 444; nine were unobtainable,<sup>196–204</sup> (one<sup>200</sup> was identified from a bibliography with the same journal details as a screened paper,<sup>205</sup> but a different title), 35 were reviews that underwent bibliographic screening,<sup>5,6,11,15,34,47,50,69–96</sup> and 42 were included. Of the remaining 358 studies, the reasons for exclusion are given below (some papers were excluded for more than one reason):

1. protocol linked to excluded trial: **4** (#206 linked to #207; #208 linked to #209; #210 linked to #211; #212 linked to #213 and #214)
2. abstract linked to an included study: **21**<sup>107–111,113–122,124–129</sup>
3. abstracts linked to an excluded study: **6**<sup>215–220</sup>
4. abstract with insufficient data to extract (authors contacted and either confirmed no further data available or did not reply): **6**<sup>221–226</sup>
5. duplicate full paper of an included study: **5** (#58 linked to #110; 74 linked to #478; 195 linked to #125; #130 linked to #106; #123 linked to #137)
6. no data for osteoporotic and/or treated patients separately from a more heterogeneous population: **16**<sup>3,105,134,227–239</sup>
7. manufacturer's trial for which results are currently not available from the manufacturer's database: **1**<sup>240</sup>
8. no osteoporotic patients: **83**<sup>37,181,202,205,241–319</sup>
9. patients who were not receiving an osteoporosis medication: **118**<sup>37,98,101,202,205,220,245,247,248,252–261,263,267,272–274,277,279,281–286,288,290–307,309–312,314–317,319–377</sup>
10. patients receiving an osteoporosis treatment but not one of the ones being evaluated in the review: **17**<sup>10,251,266,289,378–390</sup>
11. a bone turnover marker of interest not included in the tests used in the study: **43**<sup>252,259,262,283,295,321,322,325,329,335,345,347,348,353–355,358,363,365,368,384,388,391–411</sup>
12. not prospective: **1**<sup>401</sup>
13. non-RCTs that had fewer than 20 patients reaching the analysis stage of the study: **19**<sup>45,412–429</sup>
14. no outcomes of interest reported or sufficient data to calculate any: **85**<sup>31,46,51,52,59,100,102,103,105,124,138,214,221,225,227,228,231,240,430–496</sup>

### Systematic review of the cost-effectiveness evidence

1. Examined health benefits only.<sup>167</sup>
2. Review article mentioned cost-effectiveness in the abstract, but reported only the characteristics and clinical effectiveness of bone turnover markers in the results; bibliography was scanned for relevant cost-effectiveness studies but none was cited.<sup>497</sup>



## Appendix 4 Data extraction tables

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Armstrong (2007),<sup>145</sup></b> UK English Study dates: NR Abstract</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> all except four patients</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate or risedronate regimen NR <i>N</i> = 46; <i>n</i> with OP = 46; <i>n</i> PMW = unclear; <i>n</i> male = 6 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: 20 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> NR <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Bauer (2004),<sup>139</sup></b> USA/Canada English Study started: 1992 Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score (location unspecified) <math>\leq -2.5</math>; vertebral fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> only those with deficiency</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 5–10 mg/day at second annual visit orally for 2 years <i>N</i> = 3105; <i>n</i> with OP = 3105; <i>n</i> PMW = 3105; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: vertebral: 1022; non-vertebral: 819 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean spine: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.83; hip: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.69 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sCTX: 3327 pmol/l; sBALP: 13.7 ng/ml; sP1NP: 51.4 ng/ml</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> mean: 3.6; range 2.5 to 4.5 years</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; each annual visit <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> at baseline 20% fasted – otherwise none <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> –20 °C for approx. 3 years, then –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> &gt; 28 days (up to 8.7 years) <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 7% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 12% <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; each annual visit <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> at baseline 20% fasted – otherwise none <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> –20 °C for approx. 3 years, then –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> &gt; 28 days (up to 8.7 years) <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 5% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 8%</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Bjarnason (2001),<sup>151</sup></b>            multinational            English            Study dates: NR            Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc subgroup analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/FN <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; lifestyle known to influence bone metabolism; liver dysfunction; medications known to affect bone metabolism; renal impairment and/or transplant</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> raloxifene 60 or 120 mg/day (duration NR)  <i>N</i> = NR; <i>n</i> with OP = NR; <i>n</i> PMW = NR; <i>n</i> male = 0  <i>Mean age:</i> NR  <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR  <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR  <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> sCTX  <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; each annual visit  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> at baseline 20% fasted – otherwise none  <i>Time of collection:</i> NR  <i>Storage temperature:</i> –20 °C for approx. 3 years, then –70 °C  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> &gt; 28 days (up to 8.7 years)  <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes  <i>LSC:</i> NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 5%  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 8%  <i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA  <i>Area assessed:</i> hip (unspecified); posteroanterior LS; units used: NR  <i>Timing of test:</i> annually  <i>LSC:</i> NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Precision error:</i> NR  <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP  <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 24 and 36 months  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> 6-hour fast  <i>Time of collection:</i> any time of day after fasting  <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> NR  <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR  <i>LSC:</i> NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> uCTX  <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months  <i>Sample type:</i> first morning void;  <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> none  <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Blumsohn (2011),<sup>42</sup></b> western Europe English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5 + \geq 1</math> OP fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; contraindications to treatment; hypersensitivity to bisphosphonate; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> teriparatide 20 <math>\mu</math>/day SC for 1 or 2 years <i>N</i> = 758; <i>n with OP</i> = 758; <i>n PMW</i> = 758; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 69.8 (SD 7.5) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: <math>\text{g/cm}^2</math>: 0.738 and T-score: <math>-3.21</math>; FN: <math>\text{g/cm}^2</math>: 0.624</p> <p><i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean Treatment-naïve group: BALP 12.9 <math>\mu\text{L}</math>; P1NP 48.2 <math>\mu\text{L}</math> Prior therapy group: BALP 10.1 <math>\mu\text{L}</math>; P1NP 26.1 <math>\mu\text{L}</math> Prior non-response to therapy group: BALP 10.2 <math>\mu\text{L}</math>; P1NP 27.5 <math>\mu\text{L}</math></p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> range 12 to 24 months</p>	<p><i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L1–L4); <i>units used:</i> <math>\text{g/cm}^2</math> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 and 24 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> chemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> between 07.00 and 16.00 <i>Storage temperature:</i> <math>-20^\circ\text{C}</math>, then <math>-80^\circ\text{C}</math> <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> up to 4 months prior to dispatch to laboratory and storage at <math>-80^\circ\text{C}</math> <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum 4% <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> between 07.00 and 16.00 <i>Storage temperature:</i> <math>-20^\circ\text{C}</math>, then <math>-80^\circ\text{C}</math> <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> up to 4 months prior to dispatch to laboratory and storage at <math>-80^\circ\text{C}</math> <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum 1.1%</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Bruyere</b> (2010),<sup>161</sup> western Europe (original RCTs multinational) English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> subgroup analysis of patients from two RCTs combined</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score (location unspecified) <math>\leq -2.5</math> + <math>\geq 1</math> risk factor for fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> only those with deficiency</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Strontium ranelate 2 g/day orally (duration NR) <i>N</i> = 2373; <i>n</i> with OP = 2373; <i>n</i> PMW = 2373; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 73.9 (SD 6.1) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS T-score: -3.06; FN T-score: -2.99 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> median sCTX: 0.509 ng/ml; sBALP: 11.3 ng/ml; uNTX: 49.6 nM BCE/mM Cr</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 3 years</p>	<p><i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L1–L4); <i>Total hip;</i> units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 18 and 24 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> quality assessment and evaluation by a central reader</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -80 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> 2 ng/ml <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -80 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory?:</i> Yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> 0.016 ng/ml <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -80 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Burshell (2010),<sup>14</sup></b> USA/Canada English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> subgroup analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -1.0</math> + <math>\geq 1</math> OP fracture; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.0</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment 1:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day orally for at least 18 months <i>N</i> = 77; <i>n</i> with OP = 77; <i>n</i> PMW = 50; <i>n</i> male = 17 <i>Mean age:</i> 60.6 (SE 2.5) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: vertebral: 17; non-vertebral: 34 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS T-score: -2.7; FN T-score: -2.2 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sCTX: 3264 pmol/l; sBALP: 8.7 µg/l; sP1NP: 40 µg/l</p> <p><b>Treatment 2:</b> Teriparatide 20 µ/day IM/SC – unclear for at least 18 months <i>N</i> = 80; <i>n</i> with OP = 80; <i>n</i> PMW = 41; <i>n</i> male = 13 <i>Mean age:</i> 56.1 (SE 2.6) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: vertebral: 18; non-vertebral: 28 <i>Baseline BMD measurements;</i> mean LS T-score: -2.5; FN T-score: -2.0 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sCTX: 3503 pmol/l; sBALP: 9.8 µg/l; sP1NP: 43 µg/l</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 18 months</p>	<p><i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10%; <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> 30 nM BCE <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> LS (L2–L4); <i>units used:</i> g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; every 6 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> 0.04 g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 6 and 18 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/ morning fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 7.4% to 7.9% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 6 and 18 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/ morning fasting; <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 3.2% to 5.2% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Chen (2005),<sup>140</sup></b>  multinational  English  Study dates: NR  Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> One moderate or two mild vertebral fractures; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -1.0 + \geq 1</math> OP fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; lifestyle known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism;</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment 1:</b> teriparatide 20 <math>\mu</math>/day SC for median 19 months  <i>N</i> = 541; <i>n with OP</i> = 541; <i>n PMW</i> = 541; <i>n male</i> = 0</p> <p><b>Treatment 2:</b> teriparatide 40 <math>\mu</math>/day SC for median 19 months  <i>N</i> = 552; <i>n with OP</i> = 552; <i>n PMW</i> = 552; <i>n male</i> = 0  <i>Mean age:</i> NR  <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR  <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR  <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 3:</b> sCTX  <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 6 and 18 months  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/morning fasting;  <i>Time of collection:</i> morning  <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> NR  <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes  <i>LSC:</i> NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 11.1% to 13.5%  <i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA  <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (unspecified);  Units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup>  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12 and 18 months  <i>LSC:</i> NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Precision error:</i> NR  <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP  <i>N</i> = 520; <i>n with OP</i> = 520;  <i>n male</i> = 0; <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR  <b>Mean age:</b> 69 (SD 6.9) years  <b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean LS 0.82; FN 0.64 units NR  <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR  <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA  <i>Timing of test:</i> Baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months; study end  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR  <i>Time of collection:</i> morning  <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> 4 months  <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes  <i>LSC:</i> NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 7.4% to 7.9%  <i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP  <i>N</i> = 771; <i>n with OP</i> = 771;  <i>n male</i> = 0; <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR  <b>Mean age:</b> 68.6 (SD <math>\pm</math> 7.0) years  <b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean LS 0.79;</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
		<p>FN 0.64 units NR</p> <p><b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><i>Assay method used:</i> RIA</p> <p><i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months</p> <p><i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Time of collection:</i> morning</p> <p><i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C</p> <p><i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Time in storage:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Specialist laboratory?:</i> Yes</p> <p><i>LSC:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Equation:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 3.1% to 8.2%</p> <p><i>Number of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>samples:</i> NR</li> <li><i>replicates per run:</i> NR</li> </ul> <p><i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> uNTX</p> <p><b>N</b> = 520; <b>n with OP</b> = 520;  <b>n male</b> = 0; <b>n with prior fracture:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Mean age:</b> 69 (SD 6.9) years</p> <p><b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean LS 0.82;  FN 0.64 units NR</p> <p><b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA</p> <p><i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months; study end</p> <p><i>Sample type:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes</p> <p><i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Time of collection:</i> morning</p> <p><i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C</p> <p><i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Time in storage:</i> 1 year</p> <p><i>Specialist laboratory:</i> Yes</p> <p><i>LSC:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Equation:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 6.7% to 14.8%</p> <p><i>Number of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>samples:</i> NR</li> <li><i>replicates per run:</i> NR</li> </ul> <p><i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA</p> <p><i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (unspecified);  units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup></p> <p><i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 and 18 months</p> <p><i>LSC:</i> 3%</p> <p><i>Equation:</i> NR</p> <p><i>Precision error:</i> -3% to 3%</p> <p><i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Clowes (2003),<sup>147</sup></b> UK English Study dates: NR Abstract</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> Ca – everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Raloxifene 60 mg/day orally (duration NR) <i>N</i> = 22; <i>n</i> with OP = 22; <i>n</i> PMW = unclear; <i>n</i> male = unclear <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 25 weeks</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 25 weeks <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 1.6 <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 24, 25 weeks <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 4.7 <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Delmas (2007),<sup>56</sup></b> multinational English Study dates: 1999 to 2002 Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT (cluster)</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> risedronate 5 mg/day orally for 1 year <i>N</i> = 2382; <i>n</i> with OP = 2382; <i>n</i> PMW = 2382; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Intervention:</b> BM feedback (uNTX at 13 and 25 weeks) <b><i>N</i></b> = 1189; <b><i>n</i> with OP</b> = 1189; <b><i>n</i> male</b> = 0; <b><i>n</i> with prior vertebral fracture:</b> 359 <b>Mean age:</b> 71.1 (SD 4.3) years <b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean spine T-score -2.8; hip T-score -2.0 <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR <b>Intervention:</b> no BM feedback <b><i>N</i></b> = 1113; <b><i>n</i> with OP</b> = 1113; <b><i>n</i> male</b> = 0; <b><i>n</i> with prior vertebral fracture:</b> 330 <b>Mean age:</b> 71.5 (SD 4.5) years <b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean spine T-score -2.8; hip T-score -2.0 <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Test:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 10 and 22 weeks <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Delmas (2009),<sup>40</sup></b> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> subgroup analysis of an RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score <math>\leq -1.5 + 1</math> moderate or 2 mild vertebral fractures; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism; renal impairment and/or transplant; previous bisphosphonate use not in accordance with the washout schedule</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> zoledronate 5 mg/year i.v. for 3 years <i>N</i> = NR; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 36 months</p>	<p><i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> 30 <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 1.1% to 6.7% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 3.5% to 7.8% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <b><i>N</i> = 299; <i>n</i> with OP = 299; <i>n</i> male = 0; <i>n</i> with prior vertebral fracture: 173</b> <b>Mean age:</b> 74.8 (SD 5.8) years <b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean FN 0.54 –2.785 <b>Baseline BM:</b> 13.03 µg/l <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12 and 18 months; and 1, 3, 6 and 12 months after the third (final) infusion <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> Yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 2.3 to 3.7 <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range: 4.4 to 9.8 <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <b><i>N</i> = 618; <i>n</i> with OP = 618; <i>n</i> with prior vertebral fracture: 361</b> <b>Mean age:</b> 73.8 (SD 5.7) years <b>Baseline BMD:</b> mean FN 0.54 –2.768 <b>Baseline BM:</b> 49.95 µg/l <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12 and 18 months; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months after the third (final) infusion <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
		<p>Specialist laboratory: Yes  LSC: NR  Equation: NR  Intra-assay CV: range: 1.1% to 6.7%  Inter-assay CV: range 3.8% to 6.1%  Number of:      samples: NR      replicates per run: NR  Analytical sensitivity: NR  Upper normal limit: NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> sCTX  <b>N</b> = 299; <b>n with OP</b> = 299;  <b>n male</b> = 0; <b>n with prior vertebral fracture</b>: 173  <b>Mean age</b>: 74.8 (SD 5.8) years  <b>Baseline BMD</b>: mean FN 0.54  -2.785  <b>Baseline BM</b>: 0.36 ng/ml  Assay method used:  electrochemiluminescence  Timing of test: baseline; 6, 12  and 18 months; 1, 3, 6 and  12 months after the third  (final) infusion  Dietary restrictions: fasting  (details NR)  Time of collection: NR  Storage temperature: NR  Delay to freezing: NR  Time in storage: NR  Specialist laboratory: yes  LSC: NR  Equation: NR  Intra-assay CV: range: 1.6% to  3%;  Inter-assay CV: range: 1.3% to  4.3%  Number of:      samples: NR      replicates per run: NR  Analytical sensitivity: NR  Upper normal limit: NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA  Area assessed: FN;  Units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup>  Timing of test: baseline; 6, 12, 24  and 36 months  LSC: NR  Equation: NR  Precision error: NR  Number of technicians: 1</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Dobnig</b> (2005),<sup>15</sup> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc subgroup analysis of an RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> one moderate or two mild vertebral fractures; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -1.0 + \geq 1</math> OP fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> patients without a biopsy with at least one 2D or 3D microCT from the specimen</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Teriparatide 20 or 40 <math>\mu</math>/day IM/SC (NR which used) for a median or 20 (range 17 to 22 months) <i>N</i> = 36; <i>n with OP</i> = 36; <i>n PMW</i> = 36; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 67.9 (SD 6.2) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.8; FN g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.63 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sBALP: 14.7 <math>\mu</math>g/l; uNTX: 45.6 nM BCE/mM</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> <i>Mean:</i> 22 months (range 19 to 25)</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months; study end <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting; <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 4.2% to 6.8% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 7.4% to 7.9% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months; study end <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void; <i>Corrected for CR:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 4.5% to 6.6% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 6.7% to 14.8% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> Biopsy <i>Site:</i> iliac crest <i>Number:</i> NR <i>Needle:</i> NR <i>Technique:</i> bordier <i>Embedding method:</i> NR <i>Anaesthesia:</i> NR <i>Number of clinicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Dobnig</b> (2006),<sup>153</sup> western Europe English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> &lt; 60 years old; conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day or risedronate 5 mg/day orally (duration NR) <i>N</i> = 37; <i>n</i> with OP = 37; <i>n</i> PMW = 37; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 69 (SD 4.0) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> FN Z-score -1.03 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sCTX: 2.58 nmol/l</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 2, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting; <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (08.00 to 10.00) <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 9% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 10% <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> LLOD 1.2 pg/ml; <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; Units used: Z- and T-scores <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> 1.6% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Eastell</b> (2003),<sup>137</sup> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> subgroup analysis of two RCTs combined</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> at least two vertebral fractures; T-score (location unspecified) <math>\leq -2.0 + \geq 2</math> OP fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> risedronate 5 mg/day orally for 3 years <i>N</i> = 358; <i>n</i> with OP = 358; <i>n</i> PMW = 358; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 70 (SD 7.8) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: vertebral: 324 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS T-score: 2.53; FN T-score: 2.27 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> median uCTX: 7.36 nmol/nmol; uNTX: 68.6 nmol BCE/mmol</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 3 years</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> uCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 and 6 months <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void; <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum 4.9% <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> chemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 and 6 months <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C;</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Eastell (2011),<sup>43</sup></b> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> subgroup analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> &lt; 60 years old; conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism; serum vitamin D level &lt; 12 ng/ml; T-Score &lt; -4.0; prior BPs (unless &lt; 3 years and 12 months without treatment prior to entry into study), IV BPs, PTH or its derivatives</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> denosumab 60 mg every 6 months SC for 3 years <i>N</i> = 96; <i>n with OP</i> = 96; <i>n PMW</i> = 96; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 72.3 (SD 5.0) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> vertebral: 23 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS T-score: -2.88; hip T-score: -1.93 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> median sCTX: 0.5 ng/ml; sBALP: 13.5 µg/l; sP1NP: 44 µg/l</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 36 months</p>	<p><i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum 6.7% <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L1–L4); T-score <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 and 36 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> chemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>Reference interval:</i> 5.2 to 17.5 ng/ml <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> LLOQ 9.5 ng/ml <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>Reference interval:</i> 17.4 to 61.6 ng/ml <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> LLOQ 10 ng/ml <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Garnero (2008),<sup>41</sup></b> USA/Canada English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> <i>post hoc</i> subgroup analysis of RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.0 + 1</math> risk factor; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism; women who had been treated with bisphosphonates for &gt; 12 months or for &gt; 4 weeks during the previous 12 months</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day orally for 3 months <i>N</i> = 60; <i>n</i> with OP = 60; <i>n</i> PMW = 60; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 70.7 (SD 6.8) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: 25 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> Mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.778; FN: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.596 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 3:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR); <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>Reference interval:</i> 0.2 to 0.9 ng/ml <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> LLOQ 0.049 ng/ml <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> hip (unspecified); LS (unspecified); units used: NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12, 24 and 36 months; <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sP1NP (intact) <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA – manual <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (07.30–10.00) <i>Storage temperature:</i> –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> –20% <i>Equation:</i> <math>1.96 \times \sqrt{2 \times CVi}</math>; <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 3.7% to 5.0%; <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> 3; <i>replicates per run:</i> 20 <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 4.1% to 7.6% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> 4; <i>replicates per run:</i> 20 different runs <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> 1 µg/l <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP (total) <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> morning fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (07.30–10.00)</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Heaney (2011),<sup>162</sup></b> USA/Canada English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc subgroup analysis of a RCT (different forms of calcium – everyone got PTH)</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -1.0 + \geq 1</math> OP fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> &lt; 60 years old; patients not adherent to teraperitide treatment</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> Ca – everyone (either as carbonate or as triphosphate)</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> teriparatide 20 µg/day SC (duration NR) <i>N</i> = 203; <i>n</i> with OP = 203; <i>n</i> PMW = 203; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 70 (SD 6.67) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: vertebral: 203 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.866; hip: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.722 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> Mean uNTX: 32 nM BCE/mM</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 12 months</p>	<p><i>Storage temperature:</i> –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> –20% <i>Equation:</i> 1.96 × sqrt(2 × CVI) <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 26% to 53% <i>Equation:</i> 1.96 × sqrt(2 × intraindividual CV) <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 4.1% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum: 5.7% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> 0.01 µg/l; <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> chemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Sample type:</i> 2 hour <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/ morning fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> hip (unspecified); LS (unspecified); units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Majima</b> (2008),<sup>160</sup> Asia English Study dates: 2004 to 2007 Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; DVT; ectopic calcifications; lifestyle known to influence bone metabolism; lumbar fracture; medications known to affect bone metabolism; patients who cannot walk well unaided; renal impairment and/or transplant</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> no</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> raloxifene 60 mg/day orally for 12 months <i>N</i> = 63; <i>n</i> with OP = 63; <i>n</i> PMW = 63; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 70.49 (SD 9.1) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.671 and T-score: -3.176; FN: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.547 and T-score: -2.201 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sBALP: 32.9 U/L; sNTX: 19.52 nmol BCE/L</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting; <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (before 09:00) <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> none; <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (before 9:00) <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> none <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test conducted:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> distal 1/3 radius; FN; LS (Unspecified); trochanter; ultradistal radius; Ward's triangle; units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 and 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> 0.43% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Hochberg</b> (2010),<sup>163</sup> USA/Canada English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc subgroup analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> &lt; 1 dose of trial medication; BM not measured; protocol violations; T-score &lt; -5.0</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> ibandronate 150 mg monthly orally for 1 year <i>N</i> = 323; <i>n with OP</i> = 323; <i>n PMW</i> = 323; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 65.8 (SD 6.6) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> 149 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.75 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sCTX: 0.53 ng/ml; sBALP: 12.28 ng/ml</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> between 08:00 and 10:00 <i>Storage temperature:</i> -80 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (unspecified); total hip; units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> 3% (also used 0% as BMD response in analyses); <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> 1% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Imai</b> (2009),<sup>136</sup> Asia English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> LS BMD <math>\leq 70\%</math> young adult mean; vertebral fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> &lt; 49 years old; conditions known to influence bone metabolism; lumbar fracture; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 5 mg/day orally for 1 year <i>N</i> = 37; <i>n with OP</i> = 37; <i>n PMW</i> = 37; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 76.5 (SD 5.4) years <i>N with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Sample type:</i> NR <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> LS (L2–L4); total hip; units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 and 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Ishijima</b> (2009),<sup>154</sup> Asia English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 70% young adult mean; LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 80% young adult mean + <math>\geq</math> 1 fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; renal impairment and/or transplant; patients who had been treated with medication of primary osteoporosis</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> no</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 5 mg/day orally for 6 months <i>N</i> = 45; <i>n</i> with OP = 45; <i>n</i> PMW = 45; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 70.2 (SD 7.1) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.7 and T-score: -2.81 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sBALP: 28.6 IU/L; uNTX: 57.5 nM BCE/mM</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 6 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> EIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 15% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 months <i>Sample type:</i> NR <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 10% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> LS (L2–L4); units used: kg/cm<sup>3</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> &lt; 1% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Iwamoto (2004),<sup>155</sup></b> Asia English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort <b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 70% young adult mean; LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 80% young adult mean + <math>\geq</math> 1 fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 5 mg/day orally for 12 months <i>N</i> = 85; <i>n</i> with OP = 85; <i>n</i> PMW = 85; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 72.2 (SD 7.8; range 55 to 88) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.574 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> uNTX: 71.4 nM BCE/mM</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 and 12 months <i>Sample type:</i> NR <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> posteroanterior LS; <i>units used:</i> g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> &lt; 1.2% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Iwamoto (2005),<sup>131</sup></b> Asia English Study dates: 2002 to 2004 Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort <b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 70% young adult mean; LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 80% young adult mean + <math>\geq</math> 1 fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> no (all patients instructed to take at least 800 mg Ca via diet)</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 5 mg/day orally for 1 year <i>N</i> = 132; <i>n</i> with OP = 132; <i>n</i> PMW = 132; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 71.9 (SD 7.5; range 54 to 88) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.576 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean uNTX: 68.8 nM BCE/mM Cr</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Sample type:</i> NR <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 24.7; <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> LS (unspecified); <i>units used:</i> g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> &lt; 1.2% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Kim (2005),<sup>44</sup></b> Asia English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> controlled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score <math>\leq 2.5</math> SD below normal mean for Korean PMW at LS</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day orally for 1 year <i>N</i> = 50; <i>n</i> with OP = 50; <i>n</i> PMW = 50; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 60.3 (SD 8.0) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.761 and T-score: -2.99; FN: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.674 and T-score: -1.85 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean uNTX: 111.2 nM BCE/mM</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void; <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 and 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 7.6% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 4.0% <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L1–L4); units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> 4.02% <i>Equation:</i> (1.96 × sqrt2) × <i>precision error</i> <i>Precision error:</i> 1.8% LS; 1.9% FN <i>Number of technicians:</i> 1</p>
<p><b>Kitatani (2003),<sup>156</sup></b> Asia English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> LS BMD <math>\leq 70\%</math> young adult mean</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; glucocorticosteroids; medications known to affect bone metabolism; scoliosis and/or other severe spinal disorders; history of bisphosphonate treatment</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> only controls</p> <p><b>Treatment 1:</b> etidronate (2 weeks with drug followed by 10 weeks without) 200 mg/day orally for 98 weeks <i>N</i> = 32; <i>n</i> with OP = 32; <i>n</i> PMW = 32; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 63.3 (SD 7.4) years <i>N</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.679 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sBALP: 24.8 U/l</p> <p><b>Treatment 2:</b> etidronate (2 weeks with drug followed by 10 weeks without) 400 mg/day orally for 98 weeks <i>N</i> = 31; <i>n</i> with OP = 31; <i>n</i> PMW = 31; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 64.8 (SD 5.6) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.684 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sBALP: 23 U/l</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Range &lt; 6 to 24 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> EIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (details NR) <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -30 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 17.2 <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 8.6 <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> 13   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> LS (L2–L4); units used: NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 18 and 24 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Kung (2009),<sup>133</sup></b> Asia English Study dates: NR Data from manufacturer's trial database; full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; hypersensitivity to bisphosphonate; medications known to affect bone metabolism; renal impairment and/or transplant</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> ibandronate 150 mg monthly orally for 12 months <i>N</i> = 596; <i>n with OP</i> = 596; <i>n PMW</i> = 596; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> maximum 85 years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> <i>Mean:</i> 12.6 months; <i>Range</i> 11.8 to 14.4</p>	<p><b>Intervention:</b> BM feedback (sCTX after 3 months treatment) <b>N</b> = 300; <b>n with OP</b> = 300; <b>n male</b> = 0; <b>n with prior fracture:</b> 62 <b>Mean age:</b> 66.3 (SD 7.5) years <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> 0.64 ng/ml <b>Intervention:</b> no BM feedback <b>N</b> = 296; <b>n with OP</b> = 296; <b>n male</b> = 0; <b>n with prior fracture:</b> 49 <b>Mean age:</b> 65.6 (SD 7.4) years <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Test:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 and 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (08.00 to 10.00) <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> no LSC: &gt; 45% if new user; &gt; 15% if current BP user <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Kyd (1998),<sup>157</sup></b> UK English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/FN <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day NR for 1 year <i>N</i> = 35; <i>n with OP</i> = 35; <i>n PMW</i> = 35; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Median age:</i> 67 (range 52 to 82) <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sBALP-I: 11.0</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP-I <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 30 <i>Equation:</i> <math>2.77(CVa^2 + CVi^2)^{1/2}</math> <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 5.4% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 9.6% <i>Number of:</i>   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sBALP-E <i>Assay method used:</i> immunocapture enzymatic assay <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Kyd (1999,<sup>158</sup>)</b> UK English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/FN <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> patients were given Ca depending upon their dietary intake</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day orally for 1 year <i>N</i> = 30; <i>n</i> with OP = 30; <i>n</i> PMW = 30; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> range 52 to 82 years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> sCTX: 2052 pmol/l; uNTX: 51.6 BCE/mM</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 28.8 <i>Equation:</i> <math>2.77(CVa^2 + CVi^2)^{1/2}</math> <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 3.8% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 7.9% <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; spine (unspecified); units used: NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> 1% at the LS; 2% at the FN <i>Number of technicians:</i> two</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 and 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -20 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 53.6; <i>Equation:</i> <math>2.77(CVa^2 + CVi^2)^{1/2}</math> <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 5% to 7% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum 10% <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 and 6 months <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 40.6% <i>Equation:</i> <math>2.77(CVa^2 + CVi^2)^{1/2}</math> <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 5.0% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum 10% <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Lane (2000),<sup>159</sup></b> USA/Canada English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at FN <math>\leq</math> -2.5; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq</math> -2.5</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> abnormalities on spinal radiographs – precluded lumbar QCT or DXA; liver dysfunction; Renal impairment and/or transplant; secondary osteoporosis other than for rheumatic diseases</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> only those with deficiency</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> Teriparatide 40 µg/day SC (duration NR) <i>N</i> = 28; <i>n</i> with OP = 28; <i>n</i> PMW = 28; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.84; hip: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.70 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sBALP: 14.0 U/L</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 1 year</p>	<p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L2–L4); <i>units used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> <math>2.77(CVa^2 + CVi^2)^{1/2}</math> <i>Precision error:</i> 1% at the LS; 2% at the FN <i>Number of technicians:</i> two</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> EIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6, 9, 18 and 24 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> morning (between 10:00 and 11:00 hours) <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> <math>t\sqrt{2} * 6</math> median long-term CV <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 9% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 9% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; hip (unspecified); LS (unspecified); <i>units used:</i> g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 18 and 24 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> <math>t \times \text{sqrt}(2 \times \text{median long-term CV})</math> for each measure <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Masaryk (2002),<sup>99</sup></b> eastern Europe Slovak Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq</math> -2.5</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day orally for 12 months <i>N</i> = 50; <i>n</i> with OP = 50; <i>n</i> PMW = 50; <i>n</i> male = 50 <i>Mean age:</i> 64.2 (SD 7.07; range 49 to 78) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS T-score: -2.62; FN T-score: -2.52 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean uNTX: 68.51 unclear (units not reported)</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 12 months</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Sample type:</i> 2 hour <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> unclear <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> unclear <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Miller (2008),<sup>38</sup></b> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> controlled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5 + \geq 1</math> OP fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> glucocorticosteroids; medications known to affect bone metabolism; antiresorptive treatment other than alendronate or risidronate</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> teriparatide 20 µg/day SC/IM daily for 12 months <i>N</i> = 317; <i>n</i> with OP = 317; <i>n</i> PMW = 317; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L2–L4); total body; trochanter; units used: NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Moro-Alvarez (2010),<sup>135</sup></b> western Europe English Study dates: NR Abstract</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> NR</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> strontium ranelate 2 g/day orally for 12 to 24 months <i>N</i> = 66; <i>n</i> with OP = 66; <i>n</i> PMW = 66; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 68.0 (range 51 to 87) years <i>N</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 24 months</p>	<p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> hip (unspecified); LS (unspecified); units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6 and 12 months; <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 and 24 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 and 24 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Reginster</b> (2004),<sup>132</sup> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc subgroup analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math>; vertebral fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; lifestyle known to influence bone metabolism; liver dysfunction; medications known to affect bone metabolism; renal impairment and/or transplant</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment 1:</b> raloxifene 60 mg/day orally for up to 3 years <i>N</i> = 347; <i>n with OP</i> = 347; <i>n PMW</i> = 347; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 68.2 (SD 6.2) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> vertebral: 230 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.75; FN: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.58 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sCTX: 289 <math>\mu</math>/mmol; sBALP: 16.6 ng/ml; sP1NP: 54.6 ng/ml</p> <p><b>Treatment 2:</b> raloxifene 120 mg/day orally for up to 3 years <i>N</i> = 254; <i>n with OP</i> = 254; <i>n PMW</i> = 254; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 68.0 (SD 6.4) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> vertebral: 134 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.75; FN: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.58 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sCTX: 281 <math>\mu</math>/mmol; sBALP: 16.6 ng/ml; sP1NP: 53.4 ng/ml</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> Range 1 to 3 years</p>	<p><i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L2–L4); total hip; units used: NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 24 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> 1.2% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 8% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum: 7% <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> 2.6 ng/ml <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> uCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Sample type:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Reyes-Garcia (2010),<sup>58</sup></b> western Europe English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq</math> -2.5</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 70 mg weekly for 12 months <i>N</i> = 46; <i>n</i> with OP = 46; <i>n</i> PMW = 46; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 64.7 (SD 7) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: 22 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.721 and T-score: -3.2; FN g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.669 and T-score: -1.5 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 12 months</p>	<p><i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i>     <i>samples:</i> NR     <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting; <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> -80 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 4.2% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 7.2% <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> electrochemiluminescence <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> -80 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 4.2% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> 5.1% <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L2-L4); units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 12 months <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> &lt; 1% <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Roche (2007),<sup>143</sup></b> South America English Study dates: 2006 to 2007 Data from manufacturer's trial database</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> history major upper GI disease; hypersensitivity to bisphosphonate</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> ibandronate 150 mg monthly orally for 6 months <i>N</i> = 781; <i>n with OP</i> = 781; <i>n PMW</i> = 781; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 6 months</p>	<p><b>Intervention:</b> BM feedback (sCTX) <i>N</i> = NR; <i>n with OP</i> = NR; <i>n male</i> = 0; <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <b>Mean age:</b> NR <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR <b>Intervention:</b> no BM feedback <i>N</i> = NR; <i>n with OP</i> = NR; <i>n male</i> = 0; <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <b>Mean age:</b> NR <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Test:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months in the feedback arm; 6 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Roche (2009),<sup>148</sup></b> multinational (Austria, Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg) English Study dates: 2007 to 2008 Data from manufacturer's trial database</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; history major upper GI disease; hypersensitivity to bisphosphonate; medications known to affect bone metabolism; specific prior treatment – give details; bisphosphonate treatment within prior 6 months</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> ibandronate 150 mg monthly orally for 6 months <i>N</i> = 585; <i>n with OP</i> = 585; <i>n PMW</i> = 585; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Age range:</i> 55 to 85 <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 6 months</p>	<p><b>Intervention:</b> BM feedback (sCTX results by telephone 1–2 weeks after 1.5-month visit) <i>N</i> = NR; <i>n with OP</i> = NR; <i>n male</i> = 0; <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <b>Mean age:</b> NR <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR <b>Intervention:</b> no BM feedback <i>N</i> = NR; <i>n with OP</i> = NR; <i>n male</i> = 0; <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <b>Mean age:</b> NR <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Test:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1.5 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 30 <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Roche (2009),<sup>149</sup></b> western Europe English Study dates: NR Data from manufacturer's trial database</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> &lt; 55 years old; history major upper GI disease; hypersensitivity to bisphosphonate; medications known to affect bone metabolism; bisphosphonates within last 6 months</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> ibandronate 150 mg monthly orally for 12 months <i>N</i> = 596; <i>n with OP</i> = 596; <i>n PMW</i> = 596; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n with prior fracture:</i> NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> minimum 12 months</p>	<p><i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Intervention:</b> BM feedback (sCTX after 5 week) <b>N</b> = 250; <b>n with OP</b> = 250; <b>n male</b> = 0; <b>n with prior fracture:</b> NR <b>Mean age:</b> NR <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR <b>Intervention:</b> no BM feedback <b>N</b> = 346; <b>n with OP</b> = 346; <b>n male</b> = 0; <b>n with prior fracture:</b> NR <b>Mean age:</b> NR <b>Baseline BMD:</b> NR <b>Baseline BM:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Test:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 5 weeks; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> 30 <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Sarkar (2004),<sup>164</sup></b> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> at least two vertebral fractures; T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; lifestyle known to influence bone metabolism; liver dysfunction; medications known to affect bone metabolism; renal impairment and/or transplant</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> raloxifene 60 or 120 mg/day orally (duration NR) <i>N</i> = 1650; <i>n with OP</i> = 1650; <i>n PMW</i> = 1650; <i>n male</i> = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 67.3 (SD 6.73) years <i>n with prior fracture:</i> vertebral: 626 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean FN: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.62; LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.83 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean sBALP: 16.36 µg/l</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 3 years</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> IRMA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6, 12, 24 and 36 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> fasting (6 hours) <i>Time of collection:</i> after 6 hour fast <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L2–L4); units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> annually</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Shiraki (2011),<sup>142</sup></b> Asia English Study dates: 2000 to 2009 Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 70% young adult mean; LS BMD <math>\leq</math> 80% young adult mean + <math>\geq</math> 1 fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism; previous treatment with bisphosphonates</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 5 mg/day or 35 mg/week, or risedronate 2.5 mg/day or 17.5 mg/week orally for mean 3.2 years <math>\pm</math> 2.0 years <i>N</i> = 251; <i>n</i> with OP = 251; <i>n</i> PMW = 251; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> 70.5 (SD 8.9) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: any: 154; vertebral: 144; non-vertebral: 10 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.77 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> <i>Mean:</i> 3.2 years; <i>Range</i> 1 to 8.8</p>	<p>LSC: NR Equation: NR Precision error: NR Number of technicians: NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> EIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6-month intervals; study end <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> none <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> unclear LSC: NR Equation: NR Intra-assay CV: NR Inter-assay CV: NR Number of:   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> uNTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 6-month intervals; study end <i>Sample type:</i> second morning void <i>Corrected for Cr:</i> yes <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> none <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> unclear LSC: NR Equation: NR Intra-assay CV: NR Inter-assay CV: NR Number of:   <i>samples:</i> NR   <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> LS (unspecified); units used: g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; every 6 months LSC: NR Equation: NR <i>Precision error:</i> 0.5% (SD 0.5) <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>
<p><b>Siddiqi (2010),<sup>106</sup></b> UK English Study dates: NR Abstract</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> glucocorticosteroids</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR LSC: NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Stepan (2008),<sup>150</sup></b>  multinational  English  Study dates: NR  Abstract</p>	<p><b>Treatment:</b> teriparatide for 18 months  <i>N</i> = 28; <i>n</i> with OP = 28; <i>n</i> PMW = NR; <i>n</i> male = 0  Mean age: 74 (range 50 to 85) years  <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR  Baseline BMD measurements: spine: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.787  Baseline BM measurements: mean sP1NP: 28 µg/l</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Original study design:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> uncontrolled cohort</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> NR</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> none reported;</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> teriparatide 20 µg/day SC for 24 months  <i>N</i> = 66; <i>n</i> with OP = 66; <i>n</i> PMW = 66; <i>n</i> male = 0  Mean age: 68.0 years  <i>n</i> with prior fracture: 41  Baseline BMD measurements: mean LS T-score: -2.8;  hip T-score: -1.7  Baseline BM measurements: NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> maximum 24 months</p>	<p><i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA  <i>Area assessed:</i> spine (unspecified);  units used: NR  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline;  18 months  LSC: NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Precision error:</i> NR  <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sP1NP  <i>Assay method used:</i> NR  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6, 12  and 24 months  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR  <i>Time of collection:</i> NR  <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> NR  <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR  LSC: NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sCTX  <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 12  and 24 months  <i>Assay method used:</i> NR  <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR  <i>Time of collection:</i> NR  <i>Storage temperature:</i> NR  <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR  <i>Time in storage:</i> NR  <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> NR  LSC: NR  <i>Equation:</i> NR  <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> NR  <i>Number of:</i>  <i>samples:</i> NR  <i>replicates per run:</i> NR  <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR  <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> biopsy  <i>Site:</i> Iliac crest  <i>Number:</i> NR  <i>Needle:</i> NR  <i>Technique:</i> NR  <i>Embedding method:</i> NR  <i>Anaesthesia:</i> NR  <i>Number of clinicians:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Tsujimoto</b> (2011),<sup>146</sup> Asia English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> BMD LS (L2–L4) &lt; 65% of young adult mean and age ≥ 55; BMD LS (L2–L4) &lt; 70% of young adult mean and age ≥ 65; LS BMD ≤ 80% young adult mean + ≥ 1 fracture</p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> conditions known to influence bone metabolism; lifestyle known to influence bone metabolism; medications known to affect bone metabolism; bisphosphonate or raloxifene in last 3 months</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> everyone</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> teriparatide 20 µg/day SC for 12 months <i>N</i> = 136; <i>n</i> with OP = 136; <i>n</i> PMW = 127; <i>n</i> male = 9 <i>Mean age:</i> 69.2 (SD 6.3) years <i>n</i> with prior fracture: vertebral: 54 <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> mean LS: g/cm<sup>2</sup>: 0.639 <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> mean CTX: 0.54 µg/ml; sBALP: 15.53 ng/ml; sP1NP: 55.7 ng/ml</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> ostase assay (type NR) <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/ morning fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> –20 °C or –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> unclear <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> maximum: 4.4% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> maximum: 7.3% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> sP1NP <i>Assay method used:</i> RIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/ morning fasting; <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> –20 °C or –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> unclear <i>LSC:</i> &gt; 10 µg/l <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 1.7% to 2.9% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 3% to 6% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 3:</b> sCTX <i>Assay method used:</i> ELISA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 1, 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> overnight/ morning fasting <i>Time of collection:</i> morning <i>Storage temperature:</i> –20 °C or –70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> unclear <i>LSC:</i> NR <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> range: 4.9% to 6.4%; <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 5% to 5.1% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR</p>

Study	Population and treatment details	Intervention/test details
<p><b>Watts (2001),<sup>165</sup></b> multinational English Study dates: NR Full published paper</p>	<p><b>Original study design:</b> post hoc subgroup analysis of a RCT</p> <p><b>Study design as used in this review:</b> derived single-arm cohort(s)</p> <p><b>Definition of osteoporosis:</b> T-score at LS/hip <math>\leq -2.5</math></p> <p><b>Exclusion criteria applied:</b> abnormalities on spinal radiographs – precluded lumbar QCT or DXA; conditions known to influence bone metabolism; history hip fracture; medications known to affect bone metabolism (none of patients received any bone-active medications)</p> <p><i>Supplemental Ca or vitamin D given:</i> Ca, everyone; vitamin D, NR</p> <p><b>Treatment:</b> alendronate 10 mg/day orally for at least 1 year <i>N</i> = 180; <i>n</i> with OP = 180; <i>n</i> PMW = 180; <i>n</i> male = 0 <i>Mean age:</i> NR <i>n</i> with prior fracture: NR <i>Baseline BMD measurements:</i> NR <i>Baseline BM measurements:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Follow-up:</b> NR</p>	<p><i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 4:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L2 – L4); <i>Units used:</i> g/cm<sup>2</sup> <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>LSC:</i> 3% <i>Equation:</i> NR <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 1:</b> sBALP <i>Assay method used:</i> EIA <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3, 6 and 12 months <i>Dietary restrictions:</i> NR <i>Time of collection:</i> NR <i>Storage temperature:</i> -70 °C <i>Delay to freezing:</i> NR <i>Time in storage:</i> NR <i>Specialist laboratory:</i> yes <i>LSC:</i> -20% <i>Equation:</i> <math>t \sqrt{2} * 6</math> median long-term II CV of placebo group <i>Intra-assay CV:</i> 2.9% <i>Inter-assay CV:</i> range 5.8% to 9.3% <i>Number of:</i> <i>samples:</i> NR <i>replicates per run:</i> NR <i>Analytical sensitivity:</i> NR <i>Upper normal limit:</i> NR</p> <p><b>Test 2:</b> DXA <i>Area assessed:</i> FN; LS (L1–L4); total body; units used: NR <i>Timing of test:</i> baseline; 3 months; 6 months; 12 months; 18 months; 24 months; 36 months <i>LSC:</i> 3.88% (LS); 5.04% FN <i>Equation:</i> <math>t \times \text{sqrt}(2 \times \text{median long-term intraindividual variability of women in the placebo group})</math> <i>Precision error:</i> NR <i>Number of technicians:</i> NR</p>

BCE, bone collagen equivalents; BM, bone turnover marker; BP, bisphosphonate; Ca, calcium; Cr, creatinine; ECL, electrochemiluminescence; EIA, enzyme immunoassay; FN, femoral neck; GCS, glucocorticoid steroid; IM, intramuscular; intact P1NP, measurement of the trimetric forms only; i.v., intravenous; LLOD, lowest level of detection; LLOQ, lowest limit of quantification; LS, lumbar spine; LSC, least significant change; NR, not reported; OP, osteoporosis; PMW, postmenopausal women; QCT, quantitative computed tomography; RIA, radioimmunoassay; SC, subcutaneous; SD, standard deviation; SE, standard error; sqrt, square root; TB, total body; total P1NP, measurement of the mono- and trimetric forms.

## Appendix 5 Summary of the methods for modelling adherence and treatment management

Study	Question	Summary
Charpurlat (2002) <sup>167</sup>	Country?	USA
	Type of model?	Decision tree (3 months) and Markov model (post 3 months to 5 years)
	Study objective?	To explore the potential value of bone markers to monitor antiresorptive treatments of osteoporosis
		Two different treatment pathways were compared: (1) without specific follow-up (no BM, no BMD, only simple short-term follow-up to rule out adverse reactions) and (2) follow-up including an early measurement of a serum marker of bone resorption (3 months after beginning treatment for post-menopausal osteoporosis)
	Adherence definition?	The terms adherence and compliance appeared to be used interchangeably. Compliance with treatment was considered as a dichotomous variable: patients were assumed to take 100% of their medication or not to take it at all
	How was adherence modelled?	Adherence rates were assumed to be constant over the time horizon of the model. In the upfront decision tree part of the model, the population cohort was divided into adherent and non-adherent groups according to an adherence rate estimate, which was assumed to be 50% in the base case
	It was assumed that bone marker feedback would not increase adherence, owing to lack of evidence. The effect of feedback on adherence was varied in sensitivity analysis	
	The adherent population was further divided into responders and non-responders, given a 3% non-response rate obtained from clinical experts. No response was described as a real bone tissue resistance. This was varied from 3% to 30% in sensitivity analysis	
	How was treatment management modelled?	Permitted in the model if: 'the BM measurement leads to the conclusion that compliance or response to treatment was inadequate. The second treatment might pertain to a different pharmacological class, such as parathyroid hormone'
		It was assumed that markers were able to identify true and false responders and non-responders. So no test accuracy data were included in the model
Earnshaw (2007) <sup>183</sup>	Country?	USA
	Type of model?	A Markov cohort model
	Study objective?	To model the cost-effectiveness of a monthly and weekly bisphosphonates as an example and explicitly examine differences in costs and outcomes related to persistence
	Adherence definition?	Only persistence was included in the model. Persistence was the time spent on medication
	How was adherence modelled?	Persistence rates were derived from a clinical trial. Persistence was found to be 39% at 6 months for weekly alendronate (and 57% for ibandronate). In this model, they assumed persistence on bisphosphonates would be that value. A continual decrease in persistence was modelled post 6 months over 5 years by extrapolating data from persistence studies and longer-term drug utilisation patterns from a UK GP research database. These data approximated a Weibull distribution. Discontinuation is modelled as having no treatment. There was no switch to an alternative

Study	Question	Summary
Hilgsmann (2009) <sup>188</sup>		Monthly bisphosphonate use was extrapolated using a 50% increase in persistence compared with weekly medication from the first clinical trial mentioned above
		Sensitivity analyses were conducted on these rates
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Belgium
	Type of model?	Markov microsimulation
	Study objective?	To describe and validate an original Markov microsimulation model to accurately assess the cost-effectiveness of the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis
	Adherence definition?	Adherence was divided into compliance and persistence  Persistence was the time spent taking treatment  Compliance was how appropriately the correct treatment was taken. No cut-off point was specified
Hilgsmann (2010) <sup>189</sup>	How was adherence modelled?	Medication costs and fracture reduction efficacy were assumed to be proportional to compliance  The compliance rate was estimated at 70.5% for persistent women from a clinical study  It was assumed that 30%, 12%, 18%, and 15% of patients stopped drug therapy after 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years from the same clinical study
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Belgium
	Type of model?	Markov microsimulation
	Study objective?	To evaluate the potential clinical and economic implications of non-adherence to bisphosphonate therapy
	Adherence definition?	ISPOR definition  Adherence: a general term, encompassing two different constructs, i.e. persistence and compliance  Compliance: the extent to which a patient acts in accordance with the prescribed interval and dose of a dosing regimen. Often expressed as the number of doses taken divided by the number of doses prescribed (MPR)  Persistence: the duration of time from initiation to discontinuation of therapy. The proportion of patients receiving treatment at a given time period
	How was adherence modelled?	A Markov microsimulation model was developed. Persistence and compliance with bisphosphonate therapies were derived from a large observational (Belgian) study. Two persistence scenarios were modelled: full persistence over 3 years and real-world persistence  Real-world persistence: assumed that 30%, 12%, 18% and 15% discontinued therapy at 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years of therapy. <sup>176</sup> If patients discontinued therapy at 3 months, they were assumed to receive no treatment benefit, but 3 months of drug and monitoring costs were incurred. Patients who discontinued therapy were assumed to receive no further treatment

Study	Question	Summary
Hilgsmann (2011) <sup>190</sup>		Compliance measured as MPR ranged from 10% to 100% in a data set. There was a gradient of compliance rates. The relative risk (RR) of fracture was dependent on the MPR value and the drug cost was assumed to be proportional to the MPR. It was assumed that the effectiveness of oral bisphosphonates in the meta-analysis was applicable to a population with an MPR value of 80%
		For hip fracture, a linear reduction between the MPR value and the probability of fracture was suggested by a Belgian study. A non-linear relationship for non-hip fracture was found from a US observational study
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Belgium
	Type of model?	Markov microsimulation
	Study objective?	To estimate the cost-effectiveness of denosumab compared with oral bisphosphonates (branded and generic drugs) in the treatment of post-menopausal osteoporotic women in Belgium
	Adherence definition?	Adherence was divided into compliance and persistence
		Compliance: the extent to which a patient acts in accordance with the prescribed interval and dose of a dosing regimen. Often expressed as the number of doses taken divided by the number of doses prescribed (MPR)
		Persistence: the duration of time from initiation to discontinuation of therapy. The proportion of patients receiving treatment at a given time period
	How was adherence modelled?	Adherence to alendronate in a real-life setting was derived from a Belgian study. It was divided into compliance and persistence
	Persistence: 42.5% of those who initiated treatment discontinued within 6 months. These were given no treatment benefit but incurred 3 months' treatment cost. Another 18.1%, 8.3%, 5.6% and 4.1% were dropped off therapy at 1 year, 1.5 years, 2 years and 2.5 years, respectively. Patients discontinuing therapy received no further treatment	
	Compliance: patients were considered compliant if their MPR was $\geq 80\%$ . The probabilities of being less than 80% compliant were 23.9%, 4% and 1.2% in the first, second and following years of therapy, respectively. From the Belgian study, poor compliance was associated with an increased fracture rate of 35% for hip fractures. From an alternative source, it was assumed that for non-hip fractures the increase in fracture rate would only be 17%. The relative risks of fracture from the meta-analysis were associated with a population with a MPR of $\geq 80\%$ , so if alendronate was assumed to reduce the risk of hip fracture by 38% then non-compliant women would receive a reduction in hip fractures of 16% ( $0.62 \times 1.35 = 0.837$ ). For poorly compliant women, the drug cost was restricted to 80% of full price	
	Sensitivity analysis was done on reducing poor compliance and discontinuation rates by 25%	
Hilgsmann (2010) <sup>191</sup>	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Belgium
	Type of model?	Markov microsimulation
	Study objective?	To estimate the clinical and economic burden of non-adherence with oral bisphosphonates in osteoporotic patients and the potential cost-effectiveness of adherence-enhancing interventions

Study	Question	Summary
Hilgsmann (2010) <sup>192</sup>	Adherence definition?	Adherence was divided into compliance and persistence  Compliance: the extent to which a patient acts in accordance with the prescribed interval and dose of a dosing regimen. Often expressed as the number of doses taken divided by the number of doses prescribed (MPR)  Persistence: the duration of time from initiation to discontinuation of therapy. The proportion of patients receiving treatment at a given time period
	How was adherence modelled?	Adherence to alendronate in a real-life setting was derived from a Belgian study. It was divided into compliance and persistence  Persistence: 42.5% of those who initiated treatment discontinued within 6 months. These patients were given no treatment benefit but incurred 3 months' treatment cost. Another 18.1% and 13.9% were dropped off therapy at 1 year and 2 years, respectively. Patients discontinuing therapy received no further treatment  Compliance: patients were considered compliant if their MPR was $\geq 80\%$ . The probabilities of being less than 80% compliant were 23.9%, 4% and 1.2% in the first, second and following years of therapy, respectively. From the Belgian study, poor compliance was associated with an increased fracture rate of 35% for hip fractures. From an alternative source, it was assumed that for non-hip fractures the increase in fracture rate would only be 17%. The relative risks of fracture from the meta-analysis were associated with a population with a MPR of $\geq 80\%$ , so if alendronate was assumed to reduce the risk of hip fracture by 38% then non-compliant women would receive a reduction in hip fractures of 16% ( $0.62 \times 1.35 = 0.837$ ). For poorly compliant women, the drug cost was restricted to 80% of full price  Sensitivity analyses were conducted assuming that adherence rates were 10%, 25%, or 50% higher than in the real-world scenario. MPR thresholds of 70% and 90% were examined
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Belgium
	Type of model?	Markov microsimulation
	Study objective?	To evaluate the impact of all aspects of medication non-adherence on the cost-effectiveness of osteoporosis screening (by DXA)
	Adherence definition?	ISPOR definition:  Adherence: a general term, encompassing two different constructs, i.e. persistence and compliance  Compliance: the extent to which a patient acts in accordance with the prescribed interval and dose of a dosing regimen. Often expressed as the number of doses taken divided by the number of doses prescribed (MPR)  Persistence: the duration of time from initiation to discontinuation of therapy. The proportion of patients receiving treatment at a given time period  Primary non-adherence: where patients are diagnosed with osteoporosis but did not take any medication
	How was adherence modelled?	Adherence to alendronate in a real-life setting was derived from a Belgian study. It was divided into compliance, persistence, and primary non-adherence  Primary non-adherence: estimated at 11.6%. These only incurred the cost of screening

Study	Question	Summary
		<p>Persistence: 42.5% of those who initiated treatment discontinued within 6 months. These were given no treatment benefit but incurred 3 months treatment cost. Another 18.1%, 13.9% and 7.2% were dropped off therapy at 1 year, 2 years and 3 years, respectively. Patients discontinuing therapy received no further treatment</p> <p>Compliance: patients were considered compliant if their MPR was <math>\geq 80\%</math>. The probabilities of being less than 80% compliant were 23.9%, 4% and 1.2% in the first, second and following years of therapy, respectively. From the Belgian study, poor compliance was associated with an increased fracture rate of 35% for hip fractures. From an alternative source, it was assumed that for non-hip fractures the increase in fracture rate would only be 17%. The relative risks of fracture from the meta-analysis were associated with a population with a MPR of <math>\geq 80\%</math>, so if alendronate was assumed to reduce the risk of hip fracture by 38% then non-compliant women would receive a reduction in hip fractures of 16% (<math>0.62 \times 1.35 = 0.837</math>). For poorly compliant women, the drug cost was restricted to 80% of full price</p> <p>Sensitivity analysis: because the adherence rates varied by region, additional analyses were conducted assuming that adherence rates were 20% and 40% higher than in the real-world scenario</p>
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
Jansen (2008) <sup>186</sup>	Country?	UK and the Netherlands
	Type of model?	This was an individual patient simulation model, a replicate of the Markov health-state transition model developed by Kanis <i>et al.</i> (2002) <sup>187</sup> and adapted by Stevenson <i>et al.</i> (2005) <sup>498</sup>
	Study objective?	To evaluate the cost-effectiveness of a fixed dose combination of alendronate and cholecalciferol versus no treatment, alendronate treatment with dietary vitamin D supplements and ibandronate in the treatment of osteoporosis
	Adherence definition?	Adherence (treatment compliance rate) only Persistence regarding bisphosphonates was not taken into account
	How was adherence modelled?	At baseline, it seems that full compliance was assumed in each arm. In additional analyses, in order to account for adherence, effectiveness for Vitamin D was increased by multiplying the relative risk by 0.9, and non-compliance was assumed to be 30%. This was not satisfactorily explained
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
Kanis (2002) <sup>187</sup>	Country?	UK
	Type of model?	Markov microsimulation
	Study objective?	The cost-effectiveness of various agents for the treatment of established osteoporosis is modelled
	Adherence definition?	Adherence is not mentioned
		Compliance is distinguished from continuance
		Continuance is the duration of taking the treatment Compliance was the proportion of the medication being taken by the patient
	How was adherence modelled?	Continuance and compliance were not modelled separately. Non-compliant patients were assumed to incur 3 months' worth of medication costs and receive no treatment benefit. In the base case, 100% compliance was assumed and this was varied in sensitivity analysis

Study	Question	Summary
Majumdar (2007) <sup>184</sup>	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Canada
	Type of model?	Decision tree (1 year) and Markov model (post 1 year to lifetime)
	Study objective?	To examine longer-term outcomes, reproducibility and cost-effectiveness of a multifaceted intervention to improve the quality of osteoporosis care after fracture of the wrist, which involved encouraging patients to come forward and be treated through physician reminders, local opinion leader endorsed treatment guidelines, and patient guidelines
	Adherence definition?	Only persistence was incorporated in the model. A patient was considered persistent if they were filling in their prescriptions
	How was adherence modelled?	In the model, based on a clinical study, 1-year persistence of osteoporosis treatment was 80% and this was assumed to continue for the next 4 years  It was also assumed that the 20% of patients who discontinued treatment did so in the first year and that they received no fracture reduction benefits whatsoever
Patrick (2011) <sup>182</sup>	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	USA
	Type of model?	A microsimulation, state transition model
	Study objective?	The objective was to model different medication adherence patterns among women initiating bisphosphonate treatment and to estimate the cost-effectiveness of a hypothetical intervention to improve adherence
	Adherence definition?	There was no definition of adherence; patients were considered to be on or off treatment. There was no switching treatments
Strom (2009) <sup>185</sup>	How was adherence modelled?	The probabilities of treatment discontinuation (having a 30-day gap during which no treatment was available) and reinitiation were included in the model
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable
	Country?	Sweden
	Type of model?	An individual state transition model
	Study objective?	To develop a modelling framework that incorporates variables associated with adherence, and to identify important drivers of cost-effectiveness to inform future studies of adherence in osteoporosis
	Adherence definition?	Adherence: a general term encompassing all aspects of persistence, compliance, and primary non-adherence  Persistence: the duration of therapy. The number of days until discontinuation of the proportion of the cohort still on medication after a given time  Compliance: proximity to the recommendations of the optimal treatment. This includes how long a drug is taken and can be simplified as the number of doses taken, divided by the number of prescribed doses during a defined period. (The term compliance also includes other aspects such as if a drug should be taken with or without food, the time of day it should be taken, whether or not doses are taken to compensate for forgotten doses, drug vacations, pill dumping, etc.)

Study	Question	Summary
	How was adherence modelled?	<p>Primary non-adherence: if patients are prescribed a drug and never fill the prescription they are termed a primary non-adherent</p> <p>Patients on treatment were classified as fully adherent or partially adherent. A fully adherent patient would receive treatment for the prescription duration. These patients received the expected treatment benefit of a fully compliant patient. A partially adherent patient was at risk of dropping out of treatment and had only a fraction of the benefit that a fully compliant patient would have</p> <p>The risk of dropping out of treatment would apply within the first 3 years; thereafter, persistence would be stable. Non-parametric dropout rates were obtained from a US database. A sensitivity analysis of different rates for different parts of the world was conducted. If a patient dropped out within 6 months, they received no treatment benefit but the cost of physician visits, BMD measurements and 3 months of drug costs were incurred</p> <p>It is stated that in most large clinical trials, <math>\geq 80\%</math> of patients are persistent until end of trial, but no adjustments were made here for the adherent group because of its conceptual context</p> <p>Using MPR as a measure of compliance, studies have estimated differences in fracture rates between compliant and non-compliant patients to range between 16% and 44%. However, non-compliant patients have higher comorbidities, are more frail, and have higher medical expenditure than compliant patients and fracture rates are higher in non-compliant patients taking placebo. As these estimates are seldom controlled for clinical risk factors, a base-case fraction of the benefit of 80% was assumed and sensitivity analysis was done between 0% and 100%</p> <p>Primary adherence was set to 4%. They were assumed to incur the cost of one physician visit and one BMD measurement</p>
	How was treatment management modelled?	Not applicable

BM, bone turnover marker; BP, bisphosphonate; MPR, medical possession ratio.



# Appendix 6 Final protocol

## 1. Title of the project:

Bone turnover markers for monitoring the response to osteoporosis treatment: the secondary prevention of fractures, and primary prevention of fractures in high risk groups.

## 2. Name of TAR team and 'lead'

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination/Centre for Health Economics Technology Assessment Group, University of York.

### Summary

Bone turnover markers may be useful for identifying patients with osteoporosis who are not responding to treatment, which in turn will allow changes in management or treatment strategies to be implemented in a timely manner to ensure maximum benefit to the patient. An evidence synthesis using systematic review methodology will be used to investigate potential uses of bone turnover markers, and a decision analytical model developed if sufficient evidence is found to establish clinical effectiveness.

## 5. Decision problem

The review of the clinical evidence will focus on three key clinical areas:

- Clinical effectiveness: how does bone marker monitoring impact on the decision making process and patient outcomes?
- Test accuracy: how well do the results of the biomarker tests correlate with changes in bone density, architecture and incidence of fracture?
- Test reliability and reproducibility: how much do the results of tests vary within and between patients?

If clinical effectiveness can be established, a decision modelling will be developed and a expected value of perfect information (EVPI) analysis undertaken. Any EVPI analysis is dependent on the ability to undertake decision modelling. The decision model will focus on the effect of bone marker testing on patient management decisions, and will address the question: 'Which monitoring regimen is the most cost-effective in informing treatment decision.' The treatments being considered are bisphosphonates (oral and intravenous), raloxifene, strontium ranelate, teriparatide, denosumab and no treatment.

## 6. Objectives

The primary aims of the systematic review are to determine the clinical effectiveness, test accuracy, test reliability and test reproducibility, of bone turnover markers in people being treated with any bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide for osteoporosis. If possible, a decision model will be developed to determine the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for monitoring treatment response and making changes in patient management. If a decision model is produced, EVPI analyses will be used to determine the need for further research, identify the research questions critical to decision making, and help inform the design of future studies and to consider implementation issues.

## 7. Methods of synthesising evidence of clinical effectiveness

The review will be conducted systematically following the general principles recommended in CRD guidance for undertaking reviews in health care<sup>62</sup> and the PRISMA statement.<sup>63</sup>

### Search strategy

The following databases will be searched to identify primary studies, relevant reviews and economic studies:

- CINAHL
- Cochrane Library (including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Database of Reviews of Abstracts of Effects (DARE), Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database, NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED), and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials)
- EconLit
- EMBASE
- MEDLINE
- Science Citation Index

The following sources will be searched to identify grey literature and ongoing research:

- Clinical Trials.gov
- Conference Proceedings Citation Index - – Science
- Controlled Clinical Trials.com

A draft search strategy for use with MEDLINE is provided in Appendix 1. No language or date restrictions will be applied during the search. Additional searches will be conducted as required.

### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

#### Population

Studies eligible for inclusion will be those in adults (> 18 years of age) either:

- Receiving any bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide for the secondary prevention of osteoporotic fractures, regardless of the baseline pathology, or
- In any high-risk group being treated with any bisphosphonate, raloxifene, strontium ranelate, denosumab or teriparatide for the primary prevention of osteoporotic fractures.

#### Interventions

P1NP (serum), CTX (urinary and serum), NTX (urinary and serum), and BAP (serum).

#### Study designs

Effectiveness: RCTs where patients are randomised to a standard monitoring regimen (with or without DXA), or to standard monitoring regimen with additional monitoring with a bone turnover marker. Studies reporting the impact of bone marker test results on the decision making process for management of osteoporosis, that also report the subsequent rate of fracture in the population being assessed, will also be sought ('Decision studies').

Test accuracy: Studies comparing the results of bone marker tests to the results of bone biopsy or a composite reference standard of DXA and subsequent fracture outcome will be included. Given the nature of the review question, we believe it is unlikely that such studies will be available. So in addition we will include prospective studies that measure the association between bone turnover and bone density and/or fracture rates, and that report a correlation coefficient for this association. Prospective studies that evaluate changes in bone biomarkers in patients receiving one of the specified osteoporosis treatments, that

provide sufficient data to produce a measure of the risk of fracture, or that report the results of multivariate regression analyses in which a biomarker of interest is an independent variable, will also be eligible for inclusion.

Reliability and reproducibility: Prospective controlled studies of serial bone marker measurements that report a measure of within and/or between patient variability, will be included.

Studies assessing the effectiveness of treatments for osteoporosis using changes in bone turnover biomarkers solely as an outcome will be excluded. Prognostic studies using biomarkers to identify patients at risk of osteoporosis and fracture at baseline, prior to commencing treatment, will also be excluded.

## Outcomes

### *Effectiveness*

RCTs and decision studies reporting either change in patient management strategies, the incidence of fracture and/or treatment adherence rates.

### *Test accuracy*

Studies will have to report either:

Estimates of diagnostic accuracy or sufficient data for these to be calculated

A correlation coefficient, or sufficient data for this to be calculated, for the association between a bone turnover marker and bone density and/or the incidence of fracture

The risk/incidence of fracture associated with the bone marker test results

At least a p-value for a bone marker of interest that is used as an independent variable in a multivariate regression.

### *Reliability and reproducibility*

Studies reporting a measure for intra- and/or inter-patient variability in bone marker test results.

### *Data extraction strategy*

Data extraction will be conducted by one reviewer using a standardised data extraction form and checked by a second reviewer. Discrepancies will be resolved by discussion, with involvement of a third reviewer when necessary. If time constraints allow, attempts will be made to contact authors for missing data. Data from multiple publications of the same study will be extracted and reported as a single study. Where applicable and available, extraction will include data on: study details (e.g. study identifier/EndNote ID, author, year, country, setting, number of participants, and duration of follow up), patient characteristics (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity, duration of osteoporosis, risk group, concomitant renal/liver disease; baseline P1NP, CTX and/or NTX levels), details of intervention (serum or urine, sample collection details; pre-sampling preparations/restrictions; sample storage details; assay used; adjustments for creatinine excretion; delay between sample collection and assay; single/serial measures; thresholds/cut-offs/reference values), study quality, and reported outcomes as specified above.

### *Quality assessment strategy*

The quality of the individual studies will be assessed by one reviewer, and independently checked by a second reviewer. Any disagreements will be resolved by consensus and if necessary a third reviewer will be consulted. The quality of included studies will be assessed using standard checklists<sup>62</sup> suitable for the study design, and adapted as necessary to incorporate topic-specific quality issues.

### **Methods of analysis/synthesis**

Key study characteristics, patient outcomes and study quality will be summarised in a narrative and tables. Where appropriate, meta-analysis suitable to the data extracted will be employed to estimate a summary measure of effect based on intention to treat analyses. Potential sources of heterogeneity will be explored:

- Subgroups of potential interest will be investigated if sufficient data are available, for example, post-menopausal women (overall and for specific age ranges if data are available), elderly, skeletal site (hip, spine, wrist)), and glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis
- Sensitivity analyses will be conducted, where appropriate, to investigate potential sources of heterogeneity such as study quality, and differences in sample acquisition, storage and assay methods.

## **8. Methods of synthesising evidence of cost-effectiveness**

### **• Identifying and systematically reviewing published cost-effectiveness studies**

Systematic searches will be undertaken to identify existing published studies reporting the cost-effectiveness of bone-turnover markers for monitoring the response to osteoporosis treatment. The following databases will be searched: MEDLINE, EMBASE, CENTRAL and EconLit. In addition, searches of NHS EED and HEED will be carried out, along with a search of the Economics Working Papers archive (IDEAS).

Only full economic evaluations that compare two or more options, that meet the inclusion criteria for the clinical review and consider both costs and consequences (including cost-effectiveness, cost-utility and cost-benefit analyses), will be included in the review of economic literature.

The quality of the cost-effectiveness studies will be assessed according to a checklist updated from that developed by Drummond *et al.* (2005)<sup>68</sup> and Philips *et al.* (2002).<sup>499</sup> This checklist will reflect the criteria for economic evaluation detailed in the methodological guidance developed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. This information will be tabulated and summarised within the text of the report. In particular, information will be extracted on the comparators, study population, main analytic approaches (e.g. patient-level analysis/decision-analytic modelling), primary outcome specified for the economic analysis, details of adjustment for quality-of life, direct costs (medical and non-medical) and productivity costs, estimates of incremental cost-effectiveness and approaches to quantifying decision uncertainty (e.g. deterministic/probabilistic sensitivity analysis).

The review will examine the full economic evaluations that meet the inclusion criteria in detail, with the aim of identifying important structural assumptions, highlighting key areas of uncertainty and outlining the potential issues of generalising from the results of existing economic evaluations.

### **• Development of a new decision-analytic model**

If relevant effectiveness evidence can be identified (this may be in the form of an effect measure from an RCT or an appropriate predictive value from a test accuracy study), a decision-analytic model will be developed to determine the cost-effectiveness of bone turnover markers for monitoring treatment response and informing changes in patient management. One possibility is to use an existing peer-reviewed decision model developed by SchARR (University of Sheffield) to estimate the cost-effectiveness of osteoporosis interventions, using the most recent work undertaken.<sup>500</sup> The model developer has agreed to provide access to this model for the purposes of this project (Personal communication: Dr Matt Stevenson). However, potential issues of academic in confidence data will need to be clarified before determining the final version of the model which will be used. If monitoring clinical effectiveness data and adherence data are identified then the Sheffield meta-model could be utilised.<sup>500</sup> The Sheffield meta-model is a simpler summary model of the original individual patient simulation (IPS) model. Cost data in the model will be updated using the most contemporary estimates from national databases (e.g. reference costs), and a literature review will be

conducted to identify any relevant utility estimates in addition to those used in the existing model. Discounting will be undertaken at an annual rate of 3.5% on costs and benefits.

If test accuracy data is available and it is possible to utilise these data in the original IPS model then this will also be considered.<sup>500</sup> Additional searching will be undertaken, if required, to identify relevant model structures from published cost-effectiveness analyses. These will be used to help inform this adaption of the IPS model. Further, if the use of the Sheffield model is not an option the published models identified will be utilised in the development of a new decision model.

The presence of any data gaps (e.g. resource use data) that may need to be filled during the development of the model will be identified from the literature identified during the systematic review process and additional searches if required. The primary outcome of the model will be the cost-utility of different monitoring strategies. The number of fractures prevented will also be reported. Cost-effectiveness will be established by estimating incremental cost-effectiveness ratios. The number of fractures prevented will also be reported. The risk-benefit uncertainties such as the clinical effect, adverse event and net-benefit uncertainties, and the model assumptions will be presented clearly.

To consider future research priorities in the NHS, the model will also be used to undertake analyses of the EVPI. Depending on whether a model is built on the fracture risk clinical effectiveness of monitoring strategies or test accuracy, EVPI analyses will be conducted for the relevant data in the model. EVPI represents the expected costs of decision uncertainty since perfect information would eliminate the possibility of making the wrong decision. Hence, EVPI for the overall decision problem represents the value of eliminating all uncertainty and EVPI for key parameters (termed partial EVPI) represents the value of eliminating uncertainties in particular subsets of parameters. Separate analyses will be undertaken to reflect the variability considered in the decision model itself if the model allows. Per patient EVPI estimates will be scaled up to reflect the relevant UK population size and will adopt an appropriate time-horizon. EVPI also represents the maximum amount that a decision-maker should be willing to pay for additional evidence to inform this decision in the future. EVPI provides an upper bound on the value of additional research. The objective of this analysis (termed partial EVPI) is to identify the model parameters where it would be most worthwhile obtaining more precise estimates. The results from the clinical effectiveness review and the EVPI results will be used to identify future research recommendations.

## 9.7 TAR Centre

The Technology Assessment Review team at the University of York is drawn from two specialist centres: the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) and the Centre for Health Economics (CHE). This Technology Assessment will be conducted by CRD.

CRD undertakes reviews of research about the effects of interventions used in health and social care ([www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd)). The centre maintains various databases, provides an enquiry service and disseminates results of research to NHS decision makers.

Recent TARs undertaken by CRD/CHE at York relate to the identification of the seizure focus in patients with refractory epilepsy being considered for surgery, aldosterone treatment for post-MI heart failure, treatments for bipolar disorder, sugammadex for the reversal of muscle relaxation in general anaesthesia and photodynamic therapy in the treatment of specified cancer sites.

## 10 Expertise in the TAR team and team contributions

Jane Burch, Research Fellow (jane.burch@york.ac.uk). Eight years' experience in systematic reviews and systematic review methodology. Has worked on systematic reviews for NICE, the HTA programme and the NHS Cancer Screening Programmes. Will be responsible for all aspects of the clinical effectiveness review and co-ordinating the production of the final report.

Stephen Rice, Research Fellow in Health Economics (stephen.rice@york.ac.uk). Over seven years' experience in economic evaluation and evidence synthesis. Will be responsible for the cost-effectiveness review, development of any cost-effectiveness model, and writing the economic sections of the report.

Aileen Neilson, Research Fellow in Health Economics (aileen.neilson@york.ac.uk). Involved with various health outcomes research and economic evaluation studies within the National Health Service setting in the UK, and against a broader European context. Will assist with the cost-effectiveness review, development of any cost-effectiveness model, and writing the report.

Huiqin Yang, Research Fellow (huiqin.yang@york.ac.uk). Six years' experience in health services research. Has worked on systematic reviews for NICE and the HTA programme. Will assist with all aspects of the clinical effectiveness review and the writing of the final report.

Lisa Stirk, Information Officer (lisa.stirk@york.ac.uk). Over twelve years' experience in literature searching for systematic reviews. Has worked on systematic reviews for NICE, the HTA programme and the British Thoracic Society. Will be responsible for devising the search strategy, carrying out the literature searches and maintaining the literature database.

Professor Roger Francis, Emeritus Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Institute for Ageing and Health, Newcastle University (r.m.francis@newcastle.ac.uk) and formerly Consultant Physician, Bone Clinic at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Involved in clinical research related to osteoporosis for 30 years and will provide clinical advice throughout the project commenting on the protocol, results and report.

Dr Paul Holloway (paul.holloway@imperial.ac.uk). Clinical and academic interest in metabolic bone disease since training as senior registrar and clinical lecturer in Oxford in 1980s. Has run a metabolic bone clinic at St Mary's since 2004 and is acting director of the St Mary's SAS for bone markers. Will provide advice and comments on the protocol and report.

Dr Peter Selby, Consultant Physician, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester (peter.selby@manchester.ac.uk). Involved in management of patient with osteoporosis and clinical research in bone disease for over 25 years and will provide clinical advice throughout the project, commenting on the protocol, results and report.

Dawn Craig, Research Fellow (dawn.craig@york.ac.uk). Over eight years' experience in economic evaluation and health technology assessment in a wide variety of areas. Contributed to the drafting of the protocol and will provide input at all stages of the project and comment on draft/final report. Has overall responsibility for the management of both the clinical and economic components of the project.

### **Advisory group**

Professor John Kanis (w.j.pontefract@sheffield.ac.uk). An expert on metabolic bone diseases and director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Metabolic Bone Diseases at Sheffield. He has a long experience in Health Technology Assessment, guideline development and WHO Scientific Study Group reports. Will provide advice and comments on the report.



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**EME  
HS&DR  
HTA  
PGfAR  
PHR**

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