FDA Determines Risks of Calcitonin Outweigh Benefits

Last month, a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Panel voted that the risks of calcitonin salmon outweigh the benefits for the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis.

The panel joined health authorities around the world in reviewing the drug’s safety after two recent studies showed slightly higher rates of cancer among patients taking calcitonin.

The panel voted against continued use of the drug by a narrow majority, pointing out that it has not been found very effective in preventing bone fractures. The panelists supporting continued use of calcitonin salmon pointed out that the drugs are an important option for patients who have bad reactions to newer drugs, including bisphosphonates.

In a separate vote, the FDA panel was nearly unanimous that any future calcitonin drugs should be required to show real effectiveness in preventing bone fractures. Following the panel vote, the FDA is now reviewing long term post-marketing data concerning calcitonin and may change the prescribing information for the medication. While the final determination on calcitonin salmon is not expected for several months, the agency usually follows the recommendations of its advisory panels.

For additional information, visit the FDA website for the advisory committee meeting materials or read the March 5 USA Today article summarizing the panel's vote.

www.nof.org/news/944

Upcoming Health Fairs at which our group will be represented

Friday, April 26 9am-1pm
City of Arlington 11th Annual Health & Wellness Expo at the Senior Recreation Center, 1000 Eunice Street, Arlington

Friday, April 26 9am-Noon
"Hit a Homerun for Health!" at the Senior Recreation Center, 451 St. Mary Drive, Allen

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, May 11
9:45 a.m.—11 a.m.
At Methodist Richardson Medical Center Bush/Renner, 2821 E. George Bush Turnpike, Richardson in the 5-story Physician Pavilion, Room 200.

Program:
An informal group discussion about our personal experiences with osteoporosis and osteopenia. All are welcome—bring a friend, neighbor or family member.
More info? Call 214-477-7214

Meeting Saturday, June 8
Time: 9:45 a.m.—11 a.m.
Place: Methodist Richardson Medical Center Bush/Renner, 2821 E. George Bush Turnpike, Richardson in the 5-story Physician Pavilion, Room 200.

Speaker: Michelle Wright, PA-C, MMS, The Medical Center of Plano, Spine Hospitalist & Hospital Spine Coordinator.
Michelle will give a talk on some of the spinal deformities that can occur with osteoporosis.

Printing help
Our thanks to Steve Wilhelm, President and CEO of Preferred Lithographics, 214-536-9223, for his company’s support of our group. Steve is making 50 copies per month of NOF handouts/flyers for us at no cost. The company slogan is “If you can think it, we can ink it!”

For more information about our group, call Elaine Henderson, 214-477-7214