FDA Drug Safety Communication: Ongoing safety review of oral bisphosphonates and atypical subtrochanteric femur fractures

Some quotes from the US Food & Drug Administration-Jennie

Safety Announcement
[03-10-2010] Patients and healthcare professionals may have questions about oral bisphosphate medications and fractures in the bone just below the hip joint. Oral bisphosphonates are commonly prescribed to prevent or treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women. Common brand names of medications in this class include Fosamax, Actonel, Boniva, and Reclast.

At this point, the data that FDA has reviewed have not shown a clear connection between bisphosphate use and a risk of atypical subtrochanteric femur fractures. FDA is working closely with outside experts, including members of the recently convened American Society of Bone and Mineral Research Subtrochanteric Femoral Fracture Task Force, to gather additional information that may provide more insight into this issue...

...Additional Information for Patients
If you currently take an oral bisphosphonate you should:

- Not stop taking your medication unless told to do so by your healthcare professional.
- Talk to your healthcare professional if you develop new hip or thigh pain or have any concerns with your medications.
- Report any side effects with your bisphosphate medication to FDA’s MedWatch program using the information at the bottom of the page in the "Contact Us" box.

FDA recommends that healthcare professionals should:

- Be aware of the possible risk of atypical subtrochanteric femur fractures in patients taking oral bisphosphonates.
- Continue to follow the recommendations in the drug label when prescribing oral bisphosphonates.
- Discuss with patients the known benefits and potential risks with using oral bisphosphonates.

FDA Cited References:

The ADA (American Dental Assoc) has recommendations for extractions during or after bisphosphonate use. Go to www.ada.org

NEW COMMITTEE FORMING

A small committee is being formed to increase participation in our support group and to assist in creating new groups in North Texas.

Do you think it's important to do this?

Would you be interested in being part of this committee? For more info, please talk to Elizabeth, Jennie or Rita. We would appreciate your ideas and vision!

Group co-leaders: Jennie Image, 972-965-1467 and Rita Clarke, 214-649-0759

MARGARET, ELIZABETH AND SUZANNE GO THE EXTRA MILE AT THE HEARD

Over 600 hikers gathered on Saturday, March 27th to hike for their selected organization at the 2nd annual Take A Hike for Your Community sponsored by the Heard Museum and Volunteer McKinney. Our support group also participated. My thanks to Suzanne O'Malley and Elizabeth Kimbrough (right) for taking care of business at our booth, and to Margaret Donaldson for her heroic efforts hauling, and handing out, hundreds of bottles of water to the hikers. It was a beautiful, (but very windy) day for exploring the Heard museum and grounds while participating in a worthy fundraiser for over 25 non profit organizations—Jennie