

News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas

Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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****UT Southwestern seeks older women
for osteoporosis treatment study

DALLAS -- Researchers at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas are recruiting older women with osteoporosis for a study of a possible treatment to reverse bone loss. The double-blind study, limited to women age 65 and up, will compare growth of new bone in those receiving a slow-release form of sodium fluoride and those receiving a placebo. Earlier studies indicated that slow-release sodium fluoride promotes growth of new bone at a rate of 3 percent to 5 percent a year.

Osteoporosis is a complex condition that causes bones to become thin, fragile and prone to fracture. It tends to occur earlier and more often in women. Age, estrogen deficiency and a lifelong history of inadequate calcium intake all have been linked to an increased risk of osteoporosis. Other risk factors include low body weight, extreme physical inactivity, cigarette smoking and excessive consumption of alcohol.

"Osteoporosis is a very widespread problem, but effective therapies have been few," said Dr. Craig D. Rubin, assistant professor of internal medicine and a member of UT Southwestern's Mineral Metabolism Unit. "For women who already have lost a lot of bone, slow-release sodium fluoride could have a particularly useful role to play."

(More)

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Study participants must have their own transportation and be capable of completing a 40-month study. Excluded are women with hip fractures and those whose osteoporosis has resulted from treatment for some other medical problem. No remuneration is available, but all drugs and assessments of blood chemistry, bone density and skeletal function are free.

For more information about the study, call 688-2992.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School, affiliated teaching hospitals and outpatient clinics.