Zoledronic Acid Slows Bone Loss in Breast Ca Tx

COLOGNE — Zoledronic acid does not yet have an indication from the Food and Drug Administration for use in the setting of adjuvant breast cancer therapy, however, many oncologists will continue to follow the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s recent guidelines. Those call for increased diligence in screening every 6 months either of premenopausal breast cancer patients for bone loss, advising them on the importance of calcium and vitamin D supplementation and bone healthy lifestyle measures, and the early use of the clearly less potent oral bisphosphonates in women who show cancer treatment-related decline in BMD.

The osseous impact of breast cancer therapies in premenopausal patients was much less clear before ABCSG-12.

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Zoledronic acid from the onset of adjuvant aromatase inhibitor therapy may prevent cancer therapy–induced bone loss in postmenopausal women. However, longer-term follow-up is needed to fully define the effects of zoledronic acid in this patient population. The Non-Inferiority Zoledronic Acid Follow-up (Z.FAST) trial is scheduled for 5 years of follow-up, said Dr. Brufs- sky of the University of Pittsburgh. Zoledronic acid is more expensive than pamidronate (Areda), the other intravenous bisphosphonate, but its infusion time is only 15 minutes, compared with 2 hours or more for pamidronate, and there are some data to suggest zoledronic acid is more effective.

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