

Questionnaires were sent to 750 orthopedic surgeons and 237 returned completed information. Of 15 463 patients treated with any acute fractures in the previous 12 months, 10 patients were considered to have had atypical femoral fractures. The estimated incidence of atypical femoral fractures was 0.6 per 1000 fractures. Patient details revealed a predominance of female sex, atraumatic fractures, corticosteroid use, tobacco smoking and underlying malignancy. Four patients were reported to have had osteoporosis. Only two had been treated with a bisphosphonate, alendronate.

The limited relationship to bisphosphonate is consistent with a Danish study suggesting similar incidence of atypical fractures in individuals treated or not with bisphosphonates.³ As bisphosphonate therapy has been shown to approximately halve the risk of fractures, it is important to balance this benefit against the rare event of atypical femoral fracture, which also appears to

have limited relationship to bisphosphonate use.

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For the full letter, go to: www.cmaj.ca/cgi/eletters/181/11/815#266929

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Correction

In the print version of "Windows to the mind,"¹ published Feb. 9, Sarah

Dobrowolski's name was misspelled. As well, each stained glass panel is 18 centimetres square, not 13 as stated. The *CMAJ* apologizes for the errors.

REFERENCES

1. Sibbald B. Windows to the mind. *CMAJ* 2010;182:178.

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