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## Parathyroid Hormone and Parathyroid Hormone-related Protein Analogs in Osteoporosis Therapy

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### Abstract

**Purpose**—To review the efficacy and optimal use of parathyroid hormone and parathyroid hormone-related protein analogs in osteoporosis treatment.

**Recent findings**—The parathyroid hormone analog teriparatide, a potent stimulator of bone remodeling, increases hip and spine bone mineral density and reduces the risk of vertebral and non-vertebral fractures in postmenopausal osteoporotic women. The parathyroid hormone-related protein analog, abaloparatide, also reduces fracture incidence but has pharmacological effects that differ from teriparatide, particularly in cortical bone. These analogs provide maximal benefit when their use is followed by a potent antiresorptive medication. Moreover, studies have shown that the combination of teriparatide and the RANK-ligand inhibitor, denosumab, increase bone density and estimated strength more than monotherapy and more than any currently available regimen.

**Summary**—Parathyroid hormone and parathyroid hormone-related protein analogs, whether as monotherapy, in combination with antiresorptive agents, or in sequence with antiresorptive agents, will likely play an expanding role in osteoporosis management.

### Keywords

parathyroid hormone; teriparatide; abaloparatide; osteoporosis; anabolic agents; combination therapy; bone mineral density

### Introduction

The introduction of teriparatide, a parathyroid hormone (PTH) analog that is comprised of the first 34 amino acids of the endogenous hormone, was an important advance in osteoporosis therapy. And more than a decade later, it remains the only approved osteoporosis drug whose primary mechanism of action involves the stimulation of new bone formation. The full-length PTH protein, PTH 1-84, did not receive regulatory approval to treat osteoporosis in the United States although it has been approved for the treatment of

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#### Compliance with Ethical Guidelines

#### Conflict of Interest

Benjamin Leder reports grants and personal fees from Amgen, grants from Lilly, during the conduct of the study; personal fees from Lilly, outside the submitted work.

#### Human and Animal Rights and Informed Consent

This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

hypoparathyroidism. An analog of PTH-related protein (PTHrP) is currently under regulatory review and may be available in 2017. All of these agents are currently administered by subcutaneous injection though efforts are currently underway to develop less invasive modes of delivery (1). In contrast to the primarily catabolic effects of chronic infusions of teriparatide (and other PTH analogs), intermittent subcutaneous administration of the drug or related compounds have a net positive effect on calcium balance and increase bone mass, particularly in trabecular bone (2, 3). These agents stimulate the proliferation and activity of osteoblasts with a peak effect on bone formation in humans after 6–12 months of exposure (4–8). But while PTH and PTHrP analogs are correctly classified as “anabolic”, it is important to recognize that they are not purely so as they concomitantly stimulate osteoclastic bone resorption, a property that may be necessary to mediate a portion of the corresponding positive anabolic effects of the drugs (5, 7). Conversely, the pro-resorptive effect of these analogs may also be among the factors that ultimately limit their therapeutic potential, particularly at anatomic sites comprised of significant cortical bone where they progressively increase cortical porosity (9–11). Therapeutic approaches that limit the pro-resorptive properties of these agents while preserving the anabolic effects underlie the current development of novel agents as well as combination therapy approaches. In this review, we will assess the effects of these analogs on bone metabolism, bone mineral density, and fracture risk, either alone or when used concomitantly with antiresorptive medications. Moreover, as many patients with established disease will likely be treated with both anabolic and antiresorptive drugs during their course of treatment, we will also review the effects of the use of PTH and PTHrP analogs in sequence with the more commonly used antiresorptive medications.

## Mechanism of Action

PTH and PTHrP analogs exert their effects through binding to the PTH/PTHrP receptor, which is expressed in many tissues including on the surface of osteoblasts, osteocytes, and renal tubule cells (12). The anabolic pharmacologic efficacy of PTH and PTHrP appears to require intermittent administration as prolonged receptor stimulation enhances the effects on bone resorption whereas intermittent stimulation preferentially enhances bone formation (13). The molecular mechanisms that underlie the net anabolic activity of PTH and PTHrP analogs, however, are still being defined. Specifically, one of the principle questions that remains unanswered is what portion of the anabolic effects of these drugs are mediated through the initial stimulation of bone resorption (through the release of growth factors from the skeletal matrix) as opposed to direct effects on osteoblasts (decreased apoptosis), osteocytes (decreased sclerostin production), and lining cells (restored anabolic activity) (14). Whatever the relative importance of these mechanisms, however, the net effect of PTH and PTHrP analogs on the human skeleton is increased trabecular bone mass and improved trabecular microarchitecture with a concomitant increase in cortical bone porosity and a possible increase in cortical thickness and bone size (15–18). Cumulatively, these effects are therapeutically beneficial in terms of increases in estimated bone strength of the spine, hip and peripheral anatomic sites as well as decreased fractures (6, 8, 10, 11, 19–22).

## Teriparatide Monotherapy

### Effects on Bone Metabolism, Density, and Microarchitecture

Teriparatide administration stimulates bone resorption and formation in a dose-responsive fashion. Specifically, serum bone formation markers (and biopsy-documented bone formation rates) increase within days to weeks of the initiation of PTH analog therapy while the increase in resorption markers are delayed (5–7, 23–26). These observations led to the hypothesis that an “anabolic window” exists in the first several months of teriparatide therapy during which the anabolic effect predominates. Notably, the teriparatide-induced stimulation of bone formation peaks after 6–12 months of therapy, after which serum markers of both osteoblast and osteoclast activity slowly revert toward baseline levels (23). This waning of osteoblast stimulation may be one of the limiting factors in the clinical use of PTH analogs for longer periods. Moreover, studies investigating the effect of a “second course” of teriparatide therapy in men and postmenopausal women have suggested that the anabolic potential of teriparatide remains reduced even after a full year “drug holiday” (27). The mechanisms underlying this osteoblast “fatigue” have not been defined.

Teriparatide, as well as PTH 1-84, induce their largest increases in BMD at the spine, an anatomic site rich in trabecular bone (6, 8, 23). Conversely, changes in total hip and femoral neck BMD are minimal in the first year but increase modestly thereafter (6, 8, 28–30) (table 1). In studies that have directly compared the increases in BMD between PTH and PTHrP analogs and oral or parenteral bisphosphonates, spine BMD has been shown to increase more after 18–24 months of teriparatide or PTH 1-84 than with bisphosphonates whereas the increases in hip and femoral neck BMD are similar or slightly lower (7, 30–32). At the 1/3 distal radius, a site composed of predominantly cortical bone; teriparatide decreases DXA-derived areal BMD (6, 8). Whether this decrease represents true bone loss or rather a combination of bone loss, under-mineralized new bone, and subtle changes in bone size is not clear. The effects of PTH analogs on skeletal microarchitecture have been investigated primarily via bone biopsy of the iliac crest or high resolution QCT (HR-pQCT) of the peripheral skeleton. In the iliac crest, teriparatide significantly increases trabecular bone volume and connectivity, as well as cortical thickness (16, 33, 34). At the distal radius and tibia, teriparatide increases trabecular volumetric BMD and FEA-estimated strength but progressively decreases cortical volumetric BMD and increases cortical porosity for up to 24-months (11).

### Effects on Fracture Reduction

The anti-fracture efficacy of teriparatide was first demonstrated in a double-blind placebo-controlled study of 1637 postmenopausal osteoporotic women randomized to receive once-daily injections of placebo or teriparatide at a dose of 20 µg or 40 µg daily (8). The median duration of treatment was only 18 months as the trial was stopped early due to the concomitant finding of an increased incidence of osteosarcoma in rats receiving high doses of the drug (discussed in more detail below) (35, 36). Both doses of teriparatide reduced the risk of a new vertebral fracture by two thirds and non-vertebral fragility fractures were by slightly over 50%. While hip and spine BMD increased more with 40-µg of teriparatide than with 20-µg, there was no significant difference in anti-fracture efficacy between the 2 doses

(8). Once weekly teriparatide, at a dose of 56.5  $\mu\text{g}$  was also shown to reduce the risk of vertebral fracture but this dose is not available in most parts of the world (37). Once daily PTH 1-84 (100- $\mu\text{g}$ ) was investigated in a randomized controlled trial of 2532 osteoporotic postmenopausal women and it also reduced the rate of new or worsened vertebral fracture but did not significantly reduce the rate of non-vertebral fractures and did not receive US regulatory approval (6).

### **Effects of PTH analogs in Men and in Glucocorticoid-Induced Osteoporosis**

The efficacy of teriparatide was studied in a trial of 437 osteoporotic men and the changes in BMD through 11-months of follow-up were similar to those described in women (8, 38). Moreover, in an 30-month follow-up to this study, men who had been treated with teriparatide experienced 83% fewer vertebral fractures than those treated with placebo (39). Several smaller studies have also confirmed the anabolic effects of PTH in men (40, 41).

Glucocorticoid induced osteoporosis (GIO), unlike postmenopausal osteoporosis, is characterized by bone turnover suppression and reduced osteoblast function (42). Thus, it was hypothesized that an anabolic agent such as teriparatide would be more effective than antiresorptive medications in this population. This hypothesis was confirmed in an 18-month trial and subsequent 18 month extension in which 428 women and men with GIO were randomized to alendronate 10-mg daily or teriparatide 20- $\mu\text{g}$  daily and those treated with teriparatide experienced larger increases in spine and hip BMD as well as reduced rates of new vertebral fractures (43, 44). In a separate GIO study confined to men, teriparatide (20- $\mu\text{g}$  daily) also increased BMD, improved trabecular and cortical microarchitecture of the radius and tibia, and increased FEA-estimated vertebral strength more than risedronate (35 mg weekly) (45). Benefits of teriparatide in GIO have also been demonstrated in trials with weekly teriparatide in observational cohorts, and in women on concomitant hormone replacement therapy (46–48).

### **Effects of PTH analogs in Combination with Antiresorptive Medications**

Unlike most common medical conditions, the treatment of osteoporosis is distinctive in that there is no accepted role for using more than one drug at a time. Over the past decade, however, several studies have explored the skeletal effects of using PTH analogs along with antiresorptive drugs.

### **PTH analogs and Estrogens/Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators**

While many of earliest studies of combination therapy focused on the co-administration of estrogen and PTH analogs, the consistent lack of a monotherapy control group limits their interpretation (49–54). In a relatively short-term 6-month controlled trial, 137 postmenopausal women with osteoporosis were randomized to receive teriparatide (20- $\mu\text{g}$  daily) plus the selective estrogen-receptor modulator, raloxifene (60-mg daily) or teriparatide plus placebo (no raloxifene monotherapy arm) (55). Bone formation (as assessed by changes in N-terminal propeptide of type 1 collagen, PINP), increased similarly in both groups while bone resorption (as assessed by changes in C-telopeptide, CTX) increased less in women treated with combination therapy. Despite these seemingly preferential changes in

bone turnover, however, total hip BMD (but not BMD at other anatomic sites) increased more in the teriparatide monotherapy group than the combination group. Conversely, in a separate study of 125 postmenopausal women, lumbar spine BMD (but not total hip or femoral neck BMD) increased more in women in whom 9-months of raloxifene was added to on-going teriparatide therapy than in women treated with continued teriparatide monotherapy (56). Taken together, it remains unclear if either estrogens or raloxifene provide benefit when combined with PTH but longer studies and those utilizing a teriparatide-alone control group are needed to fully define the potential of these approaches.

### PTH analogs and Bisphosphonates

The nitrogen-containing bisphosphonates act by binding to hydroxyapatite and inhibiting the enzyme farnesyl diphosphate synthase in the cholesterol biosynthetic pathway, suppressing protein geranylgeranylation, and hence osteoclastic bone resorption (57). These drugs persist in the bone matrix for prolonged periods but there are differences in the potency and persistence of the biologic activity among these agents that may account for their distinct effects when combined with anabolic agents (58). For example, in a randomized controlled trial of postmenopausal osteoporotic women assigned to receive PTH 1-84 (100- $\mu$ g daily), alendronate 10-mg daily, or both for 12-months, lumbar spine BMD increased similarly in all groups while hip BMD increased similarly in the alendronate and combinations groups but, as noted above, did not increase with only 12 months of PTH 1-84 monotherapy (30). When volumetric trabecular BMD of the vertebral bodies were measured by quantitative CT in this study, a different pattern emerged as BMD increased 2-fold more in the PTH 1-84 monotherapy group than in the combination group. In a 30-month clinical trial in which postmenopausal women were randomized to receive either alendronate 10-mg daily, teriparatide 40- $\mu$ g daily, or both medications, both DXA-derived spine and hip BMD increased more in women treated with teriparatide alone than those treated with either alendronate alone or both agents (23). In both of these studies, biochemical markers of bone turnover were less completely suppressed in subjects receiving combination therapy than in subjects receiving alendronate alone, demonstrating a partial bisphosphonate-induced blunting of the anabolic effects of the PTH analog. This lack of an additive effect on BMD was also apparent in a 12-month trial of 412 postmenopausal women randomized to a single infusion of zoledronic acid 5 mg, teriparatide 20- $\mu$ g daily, or the combination of both medications. In this study, spine BMD increased similarly in the combination group and the teriparatide monotherapy group and total hip and femoral neck BMD increased similarly in the combination group and the zoledronic acid monotherapy group (59).

In a study aimed to assess the effects of adding teriparatide to ongoing alendronate, hip and spine BMD increased more in postmenopausal women in whom teriparatide was added to alendronate compared to women in whom alendronate was discontinued when teriparatide was started (60). Because there was no group in which alendronate was continued without anabolic therapy, it is unclear whether adding teriparatide is preferable to simply continuing alendronate. In a separate study taking the opposite approach, alendronate was added to ongoing teriparatide and spine and hip BMD increased more than when teriparatide monotherapy was continued (though no comparison was made to switching from teriparatide to alendronate) (56, 61). Taken together with other smaller combination therapy studies (62,

63), the data suggests that the co-administration of bisphosphonates and PTH analogs does not provide clinical benefits compared to monotherapy, though approaches that involve adding one class of agent to patients already being treated with the other class of agents deserve further exploration.

### **Teriparatide Combined with Denosumab**

Denosumab is a monoclonal antibody that blocks the binding of receptor activator of NF $\kappa$ B (RANK)-ligand to its osteoclast-derived receptor, RANK, thus inhibiting osteoclast formation, activation and survival and hence bone resorption (64, 65). In the Denosumab and Teriparatide Administration (DATA) studies, 94 postmenopausal women with osteoporosis were randomly assigned to receive teriparatide (20- $\mu$ g daily), denosumab (60-mg every 6-months), or both medications for 24-month and BMD at the spine and hip increased most in those treated with both drugs (figure, panels a–c) (28, 29). Moreover, most of the benefit of combination therapy was manifest during the first 12-months of treatment, during which lumbar spine BMD increased by 9.1% in the combination group versus 6.2% and 5.5% in the teriparatide or denosumab groups, respectively. Moreover, the 1-year changes at the total hip exceeded a simple additive effect as hip BMD increased by 4.9% in the combination group compared to 0.7% and 2.5%, in the teriparatide and denosumab groups, respectively. Finally, the concomitant administration of denosumab was able to prevent the loss in distal radius BMD that was observed with teriparatide monotherapy.

The pattern of the changes in bone turnover also differed in patients treated with combined denosumab and teriparatide than in studies in which patients were treated with bisphosphonate-containing combinations. Specifically, bone resorption markers were identical in patients treated with denosumab monotherapy and those treated with combined denosumab and teriparatide whereas markers of bone formation were significantly more suppressed in those treated with denosumab alone, especially at the early time points (figure, panels d and e). Together, these findings suggest that the superior efficacy of combined denosumab and teriparatide may be due, at least in part, to denosumab's ability to fully block the pro-resorptive effects of teriparatide while still allowing for teriparatide-induced stimulation of modeling-based bone formation, particularly at anatomic sites rich in cortical bone. Consistent with this hypothesis, cortical volumetric BMD and thickness increased more in women treated with combined denosumab plus teriparatide than either monotherapy group (assessed by HR-pQCT of the radius and tibia). Moreover, cortical porosity, which increased progressively in women treated with teriparatide alone remained stable (and similar to denosumab monotherapy) in women treated with both drugs for up to 24-months (11).

## **Effects of PTH Analogs in Sequence with Antiresorptive Medications**

### **Antiresorptive Therapy after PTH Analogs**

When PTH analogs are discontinued, BMD at both the spine and hip progressively decrease with the rate of the decline being faster in estrogen deficient women than in eugonadal men (27, 66). Because the use of these analogs is limited to 18–24 months by regulatory authorities, this becomes an important clinical issue in virtually all patients treated with

these drugs. And while some studies suggest that teriparatide continues to protect patients from fractures even after it is stopped (and despite on-going bone loss), the potential advantages of maintaining or further increasing BMD in these patients are clear (66, 67). Importantly, oral bisphosphonates have consistently demonstrated that they reliably prevent bone loss in patients transitioning from anabolic drugs and in most cases further increase BMD at both the hip and spine (66, 68–70). The selective estrogen receptor modulator, raloxifene, also prevents bone loss at the hip and spine but increases BMD at the femoral neck only (71). More recently, it was reported that even larger BMD gains are achieved when teriparatide is followed by denosumab. Specifically, in the DATA-Switch study (figure, panel f), spine and femoral neck BMD increased by an additional 9.4% and 5.8%, respectively, in women transitioning from teriparatide to an additional 2 years of denosumab. Moreover, at the distal radius, where 2 years of teriparatide decreased BMD by 2%, denosumab fully reversed this BMD loss within 6 months (72). Finally, denosumab also further increased BMD in women who had already received 2-years of combined teriparatide and denosumab therapy, resulting in cumulative 4-year BMD gains of 16.0% and 9.1% at the spine and femoral neck, respectively (72).

### PTH Analogs After Hormonal or Bisphosphonate Therapy

Because bisphosphonates are present in the skeletal matrix long after their administration has been discontinued, it had been theorized that PTH analogs may have differential effects when used in patients who had been treated with these drugs as compared to treatment-naïve patients (58). Several clinical trials subsequently investigated the effects of teriparatide when used after antiresorptive agents, though their interpretation is limited by non-randomized designs. Nonetheless, a consistent finding in these trials is that teriparatide-induced increases in spine BMD, while significant, are more modest when used after bisphosphonates than when administered *de novo*. In contrast, BMD at the hip has been reported to either remain stable or decrease slightly when bisphosphonate-treated women are then treated with a PTH analog for 1 year, though after 2 years hip BMD does increase (60, 73–76).

In a non-randomized comparison study contrasting the changes in BMD in postmenopausal women pre-treated with raloxifene or alendronate for 1.5–3 years, teriparatide increased BMD more in patients treated with the raloxifene than alendronate, particularly at early time points (75). Similarly, when the effects of teriparatide were assessed in patients who had been exposed to one of several oral bisphosphonates, BMD increased less in those previously treated with bisphosphonates with higher affinity to hydroxyapatite (such as alendronate) compared to those treated with bisphosphonates with a lower affinity (such as risedronate or etidronate) (58, 73–75). Together, these studies suggest that a residual bisphosphonate presence may blunt the anabolic potential of the PTH analog even after the drug has been discontinued, though how long such an effect persists is not known.

### Teriparatide After Denosumab

Because the effects of denosumab do not persist in the skeleton after the drug is discontinued, it was hypothesized that the use of teriparatide after denosumab would avoid the blunting observed when teriparatide follows bisphosphonates (72). This hypothesis was tested, but ultimately contradicted, in the DATA-Switch study in which women who received

2 years of denosumab followed by 2 years of teriparatide experienced significant transient bone loss at the spine and even more extensive and progressive bone loss at the hip and distal radius (figure, panel f). In fact, when the total 4-year changes are compared, women treated with 2 years of teriparatide followed by 2 years of denosumab experienced a 3.9% greater increase in hip BMD compared to those treated with 2 years of denosumab followed by 2 years of teriparatide. Perhaps most strikingly, the transition from denosumab to teriparatide was associated with extremely accelerated bone remodeling as 6-months after the transition median osteocalcin and CTX levels were 275% and 200% above their original baseline, respectively. Moreover, this high level of bone remodeling persisted as these markers remained well above baseline even after 24-months of teriparatide. The mechanism by which teriparatide exerts this prominent stimulatory effect on bone metabolism in patients discontinuing denosumab is unknown but may relate to teriparatide stimulating a large pool of dormant osteoclast precursors in patients exposed to long-term RANKL inhibition. Given the recent reports that even the less-extensive increase in bone remodeling that occurs when denosumab is discontinued without adding teriparatide may be associated with an increased incidence of multiple vertebral fractures (77–81), it is prudent for physicians to avoid switching patients from denosumab to teriparatide until the clinical ramifications are fully defined.

## Abaloparatide

Abaloparatide is a synthetic peptide analog of PTH-related protein (rhPTHrP 1-34) that binds to the PTH/PTHrP receptor with a greater selectivity to the RG conformation than does teriparatide thus mediating a more transient response in PTH/PTHrP-receptor-expressing cells (82). It has been hypothesized that this differential selectivity mediates the modest differences in the clinical effects of abaloparatide versus teriparatide, particularly in sites comprised of significant cortical bone (table) (83). In a recently published phase 3 trial in which approximately 2400 women were randomized to receive blinded daily subcutaneous injections of placebo, abaloparatide 80 µg, or open-label teriparatide (20 µg) for 18 months, those treated with abaloparatide experienced an 86% relative risk reduction in new morphometric vertebral fractures compared to placebo while teriparatide reduced the risk by 80% (no significant difference between abaloparatide and teriparatide) (22). Abaloparatide also reduced the risk of non-vertebral fracture by 43%, which differed significantly from placebo but not open label teriparatide (which reduced the risk by a non-significant 28% relative to placebo). Abaloparatide and teriparatide increased spine BMD similarly but hip and femoral neck BMD increased by approximately 1% more in those treated with abaloparatide compared to teriparatide. Interestingly, biochemical markers of both bone resorption and formation increased less with abaloparatide than teriparatide and the incidence of hypercalcemia was also lower with abaloparatide (6.4%) compared to teriparatide (3.4%). The above clinical trial has been extended for an additional 6 months during which subjects who received 18 months of either abaloparatide or placebo then received 6 months of oral alendronate (70 mg daily). The results of this extension are not yet published.



## Osteosarcoma

A thorough discussion of the safety issues related to PTH and PTHrP analogs is beyond the scope of this review. Nonetheless it should be noted that toxicology studies investigating the effect these analogs on young rats show dose-dependent osteosclerosis, extra-medullary hematopoiesis, and increased risk of osteosarcoma when administered at doses greater than the human equivalent starting at a young age (35, 36, 84–86). Based on these findings, teriparatide and PTH 1-84 labels include a “Black Box” warning as likely will abaloparatide should it be approved. In 2003, The Osteosarcoma Surveillance Study was initiated to evaluate a potential association between teriparatide and osteosarcoma in humans. After 7 years of the planned 15-year follow-up, no association between teriparatide use and subsequent osteosarcoma was detected (87).

## Conclusion

As the only currently approved anabolic agent used in the treatment of osteoporosis in the U.S., teriparatide, despite limitations of high cost and parenteral route of delivery, has proven to be an important therapeutic option in a diverse group of patients at high risk of fracture. In the coming months, abaloparatide may join teriparatide as an additional anabolic option in the management of established postmenopausal osteoporosis. Current studies demonstrate that PTH and PTHrP analogs are most effective when used before, rather than following, antiresorptive medications. Moreover, it is clear that the transition from denosumab to teriparatide is unique in its stimulation of rapid, high-turnover bone loss and should be avoided. Finally, while the combination of bisphosphonates and PTH analogs do not appear to provide a significant advantage compared to monotherapy with PTH analogs alone, combined denosumab and teriparatide additively increase spine and hip BMD and improve skeletal microarchitecture at peripheral sites. The combination of denosumab and teriparatide must now be assessed for its capacity to reduce fracture incidence in patients with severe disease.

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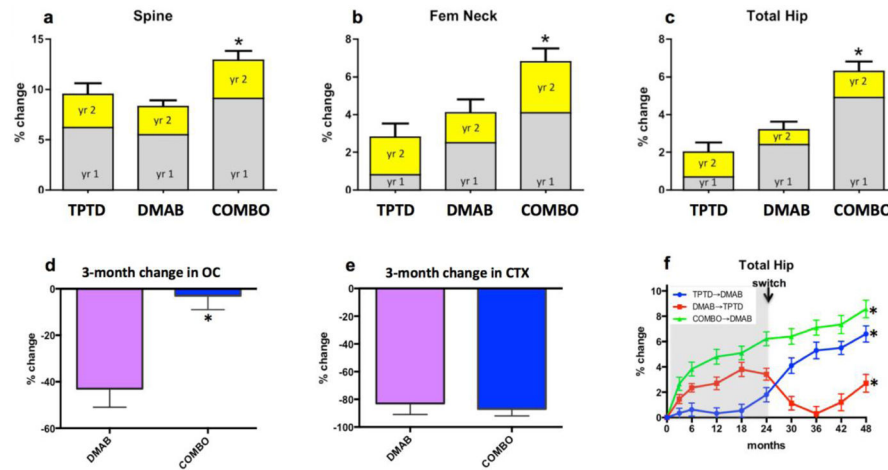
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### Figure.

Year 1 and year 2 change in BMD in patients treated with teriparatide (TPTD), denosumab (DMAB), or both medications (COMBO) in the DATA study (panels a–c). Change in c-telopeptide (CTX) and osteocalcin (OC) 3-months after treatment initiation with denosumab (DMAB) or both medications (COMBO) in the DATA study (panels d and e). Change in total hip BMD over 48 months in patients treated with 2 years of teriparatide followed by 2 years of denosumab, 2 years of denosumab followed by 2 years of teriparatide, or 2 years of combination therapy followed by 2 years of denosumab in the DATA-Switch study. \* $p < 0.05$  versus other groups. Adapted from references (28, 29, 72)



**Table 1**

Mean changes in areal BMD of the lumbar spine, total hip, femoral neck, and distal radius in postmenopausal osteoporotic women treated with PTH and PTHrP analogs alone or in combination with antiresorptive medications (range given when multiple studies are referenced) (6, 8, 22, 28–31).

	Lumbar Spine	Total Hip	Femoral Neck	Distal Radius
<b>12-month change in BMD</b>				
teriparatide 20 mcg daily	+6–8%	+0–1%	+0–1%	–1.5%
parathyroid hormone 1-84 100 mcg daily	+6%	+0–1%	+0–1%	–3%
abaloparatide 80 mcg daily	+8–9%	+2.8%	+2.2%	–1%
teriparatide plus zoledronic acid	+7.5%	+2.3%	+2.2%	--
parathyroid hormone 1-84 plus alendronate	+6.3%	+1.9%	+1.8%	–1.1%
teriparatide plus denosumab	+9.1%	+4.9%	+4.2%	+2.6%
<b>24-month change in BMD</b>				
teriparatide 20 mcg daily	+9.5	+2%	+2.6%	–1.7%
teriparatide plus denosumab	+12.9	+6.3	+6.8%	+2.2%