Author's response to reviews

Title: The relative efficacy of nine osteoporosis medications for reducing the rate of fractures in post-menopausal women

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Dear Editor of BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

We are submitting a manuscript titled ‘The relative efficacy of nine osteoporosis medications for reducing the rate of fractures in post-menopausal women’ for consideration for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

The manuscript is a systematic review with multiple databases of randomized placebo-controlled trials that included any of nine osteoporosis medications (alendronate, denosumab, etidronate, ibandronate, raloxifene, risedronate, strontium, teriparatide, and zoledronic acid) to assess the relative efficacy to reduce the rates of non-vertebral, vertebral hip or wrist fractures.

We have identified 30 randomized placebo-controlled trials which includes almost 60,000 patients. We have conducted our meta-analysis using Bayesian and classical approaches, and we have included an assessment of how the different patient baseline characteristics affects the estimates.

This paper provides guidance for clinicians on the choice of osteoporosis medications when the only evidence available for determining relative efficacy has been generated from randomized placebo-controlled trials.

We trust that your readers will find the results interesting, and we look forward to your comments.

Sincerely
Robert Borden Hopkins