Reviewer's report

Title: Magnesium Deficiency: Effect on Bone Mineral Density in the Mouse Appendicular Skeleton

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Reviewer: Frederick Singer

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

1. Comments: b. Compulsory revisions 1. In figure 1 the authors demonstrate the bone mineral content of the femoral metaphysis and in figure 2 the bone mineral density of the femoral midshaft. It is not apparent why the density of the metaphysis and the bone mineral content of the midshaft were not provided. These data should be added in any form the authors think appropriate. 2. In their recent publication in Calcified Tissue International (72:32, 2002) the authors report that the magnesium deficient mice had somewhat lower body weight than the control mice. They should include the weights of the mice in the present study. If the weights are low again in the deficient mice they should briefly discuss the implications of this with respect to the decrease in trabecular bone.

Competing interests:

None declared.