Reviewer's report

Title: Improvement in health-related quality of life in osteoporosis patients treated with teriparatide

Version: 2 Date: 31 March 2008

Reviewer: SALVATORE MINISOLA

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The paper by Lau and coworkers has been carried out in order to investigate the effect of teriparatide on quality of life. The investigation suffers from a number of methodological issues, as admitted by the Authors in the second-last paragraph of the conclusion.

Major points

1) There is a selection bias as derived by figure 1; it is entirely possible that only those who felt better come to the follow-up visits. The last two boxes of the figure are in the wrong place.

2) It is not clear the reason for the prescription of teriparatide to 20 patients without fractures (osteoporosis or what?).

3) Patients at three months should be evaluated separately from those at six months.

4) Which was the level of pain in the 42 patients not taking medications for back pain?

5) How was vertebral fracture defined?

6) The methods section is superficial, especially with respect to the last point.

7) The discussion should be based only on the significant results obtained. No inferences regarding non significant results should be made.

Minor points

· Figure 1 is not quoted in the text
· Reference 3 is in the wrong place
· Reference 15 should be quoted instead of 14 in the methods section
· Some typographical mistakes throughout the paper