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Biomechanical analysis of combined treatment of high calcium and bisphosphonate in tibia of steroid-treated growing-phase rats

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Abstract:

Childhood systemic diseases are commonly treated with steroids. Consequently, steroidinduced osteoporosis is often observed as a side effect of steroid therapy. However, osteoporosis of tibia resulting from steroid therapy has not been reported yet. Herein we constructed a steroid-induced osteoporosis in tibia of the growing phase rats to examine internal structural changes of the bone and tried to find out the effect of bisphosphonates as a new and early treatment method. Biomechanical analysis was performed using twodimensional microdensitometry and three-dimensional pQCT method. In addition, the following evaluations were carried out: noninvasive bone strength measurements in steroidinduced osteoporotic rat tibiae; comparing the effectiveness of single high-calcium diet *versus* combined treatment of high calcium and bisphosphonate for osteoporosis; and quantitative measurement of four elements (Ca, P, Mg, Zn) in bone matrix. Our data suggested that a combined treatment of high calcium and bisphosphonate was an effective new method to improve and treat steroid-induced osteoporosis in childhood.

Key words: Bisphosphonate, pQCT, Rat

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