

Beyond the Break: Understanding Bone Health as Part of Overall Musculoskeletal Health



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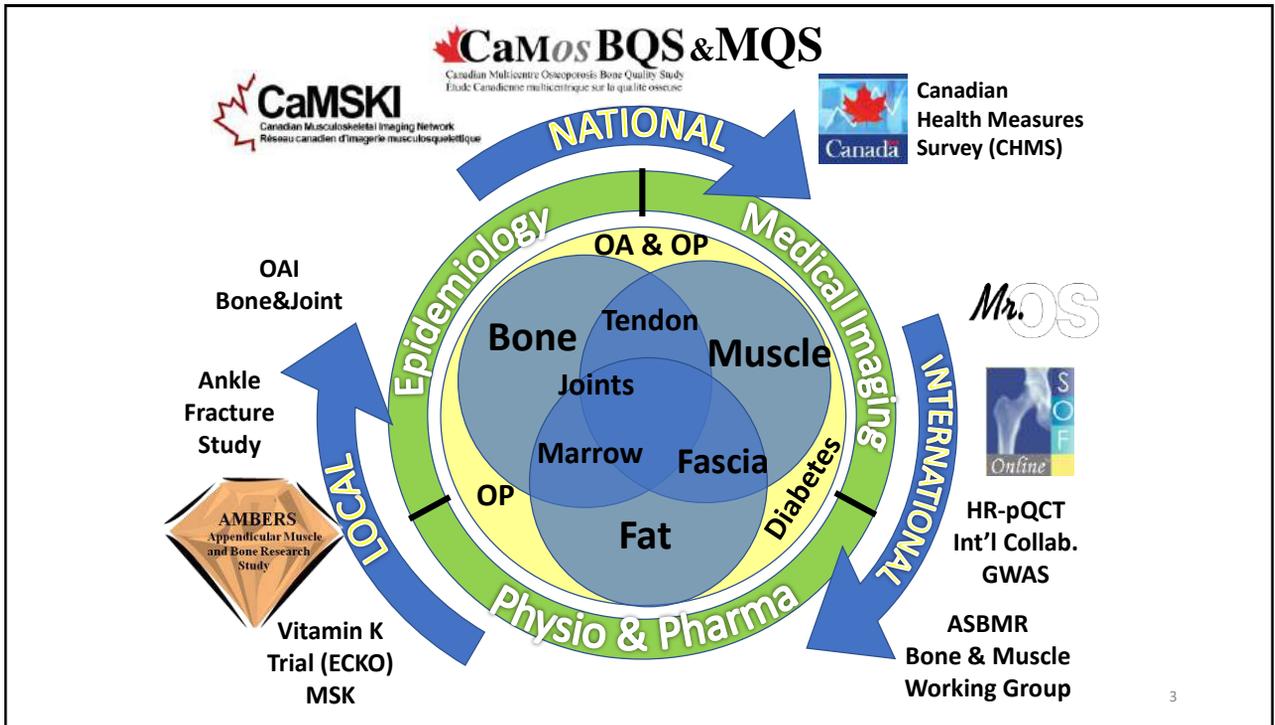
Disclosures

- I hold 2 CIHR Grants (PJT-156274, PJT-166012)
- Consulted for academic institutions (OHSU, UCSF, UPitt, Sick Kids)
- I have not consulted with industry
- I have no conflicts of interests to declare

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Beyond the Break – Webinar Learning Objectives

- 1) Understand the origin and evolution of bone, muscle, fat, & cartilage
- 2) Appreciate the interactions between:
 - a. Bones & muscles
 - b. Fat in bones & muscles
 - c. Bones & muscles surrounding joints
- 3) Summarize perspective on bone health as part of overall MSK health

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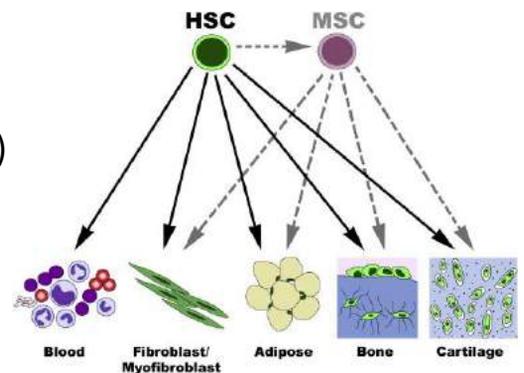
Origin and Evolution of bone, muscle, fat, & cartilage

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Bone, Muscle, Fat & Cartilage – the same stem cell with different lineage

- Mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into bone, muscle, cartilage and fat (connective)
- Evidence of mutually exclusive cell line commitment¹
- Preferential commitment to fat lineage → loss in bone, muscle etc^{2,3}
- No surface markers – determined by phenotype, function



(1: Quan Kang et al, 2009, 2: Rosen et al, 2009, 3: Rozman et al, 1989)

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Determinants of MSC differentiation

• Differentiation driven by:

1. transcription factors

(Runx2 Osterix(bone) vs. PPAR γ CEBP(fat))

2. microRNA

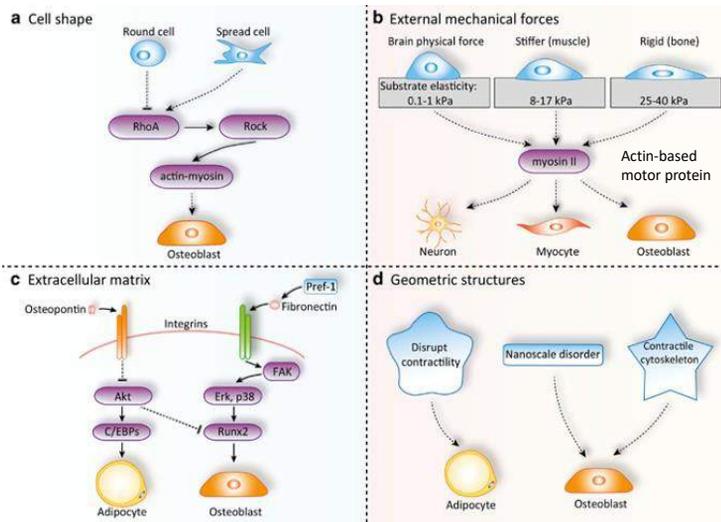
(miR-455-3p (cartilage), miR-320 (bone))

3. oxygen level

(hypoxia (cartilage))

4. physical environment

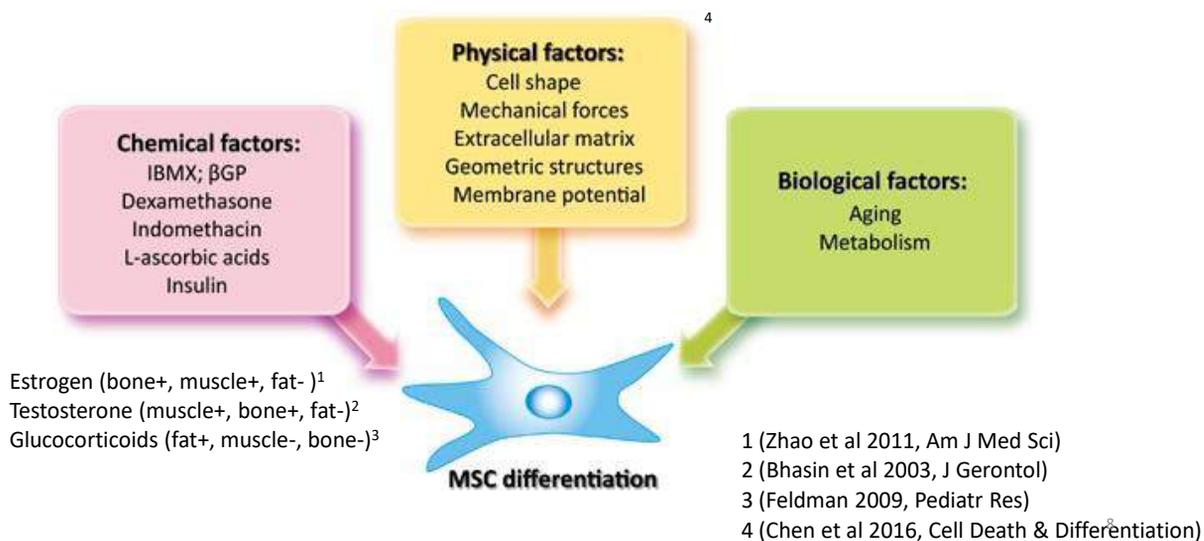
(stiffer ECM (muscle), rigid (bone))



(Chen et al 2016, Cell Death & Differentiation)

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Other non-cellular factors affecting MSC differentiation



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Estrogen and Bone

- key regulator of bone metabolism¹
- deficiency → osteoporosis
- Menopause → declines BMD
 - 9.1% @ FN & 10.6% @ LS¹
- [estrogen] associated with fractures²
 - <5 pg/mL associated with a 2.5-fold increased hip & vert fx

1. Greendale GA et al. Bone mineral density loss in relation to the final menstrual period in a multiethnic cohort: results from the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation (SWAN). *J Bone Miner Res.* 2012; 27(1):111-8.

2. Cummings SR et al. Endogenous hormones and the risk of hip and vertebral fractures among older women. *NEJM.* 1998;339(11):733-8.

Estrogen and Muscle, Joints, Pain

- Estrogen may attenuate age-related decline in lean muscle mass^{3,4}
- impact joints tissues, including articular cartilage
- Associated with chronic pain in muscles and joints⁵

3. Chesterton LS, Barlas P, Foster NE, Baxter GD, Wright CC. Gender differences in pressure pain threshold in healthy humans. *Pain.* 2003;101(3):259-66.

4. Fillingim RB. Sex, gender, and pain: women and men really are different. *Current Review of Pain.* 2000;4(1):24-30.

5. de Kruijf M, Stolk L, Zillikens MC, de Rijke YB, Bierma-Zeinstra SM, Hofman A, Huygen FJ, Uitterlinden AG, van Meurs JB. Lower sex hormone levels are associated with more chronic musculoskeletal pain in community-dwelling elderly women. *Pain.* 2016;157(7):1425-31.

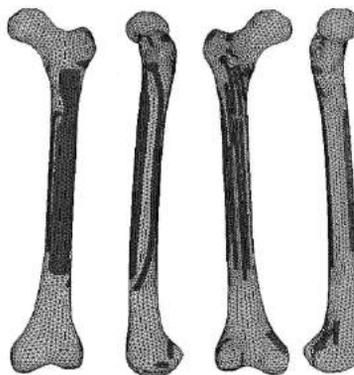
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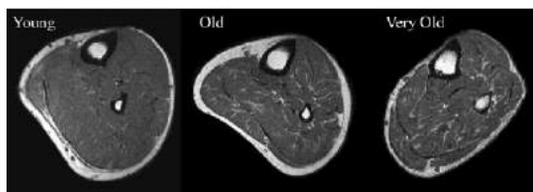
Interactions: Bone & Muscle

Bone-muscle interaction

- Muscle contraction – largest voluntary load on bone (Ferretti et al, 1998, 2000; Kohrt et al, 2009)
- Electrical activity of muscle modulates bone metabolism (Nagasaka et al, 2006; Park et al, 2004; Rittweger et al, 2006)
- Bone models & remodels in response to mechanical stimuli – mechanostat (Frost, 1998; Cointny et al, 2004)



(Polgar et al, 2003)

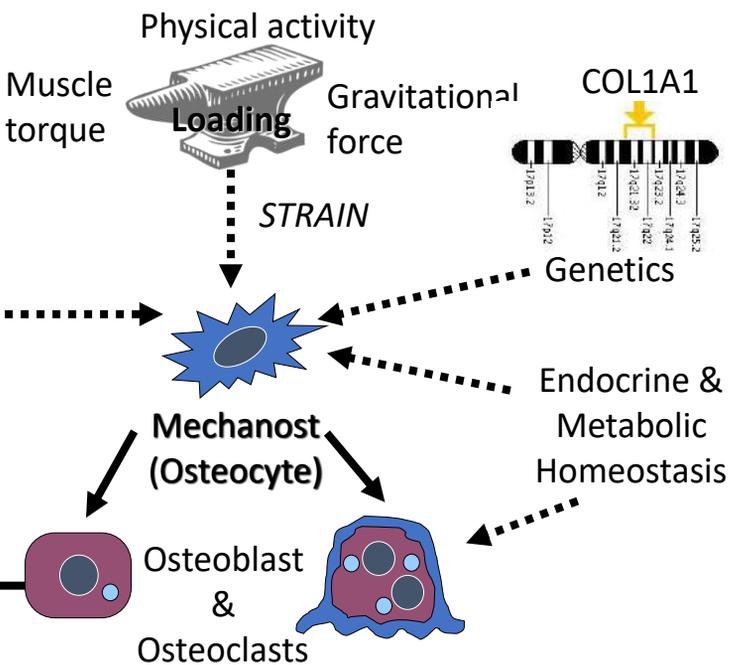
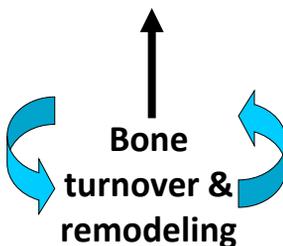
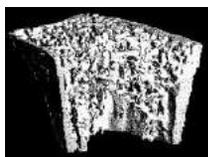


(MacNeil et al, 2009)

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Bone Response to Loading

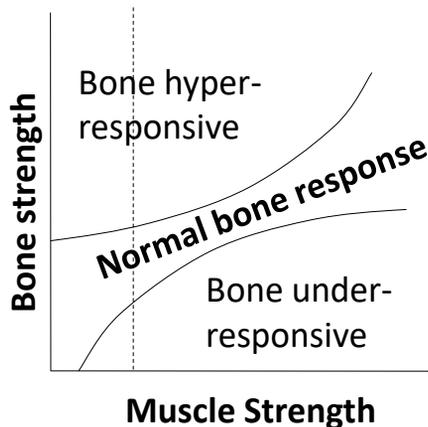
Bone quality & bone mass



(Adapted from Ferretti, Cointny et al, 2004)

Bone-muscle (B-M) indices

- Positive relationships between muscle & bone mass/strength (Frost, 1997, 1998)



- Proposed bone:muscle ratios as indicators of bone response to muscle (Ferretti et al, 1998, 2000, 2001)

Bone strength, size or mass responds to...

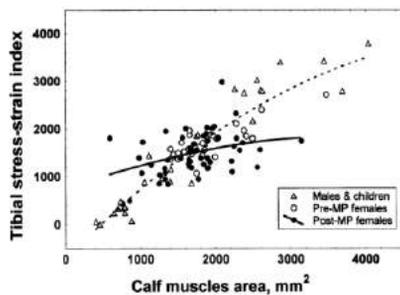
$$\text{B-M Index} = \frac{\text{Bone parameter}}{\text{Muscle parameter}}$$

...differences in muscle strength, size and mass

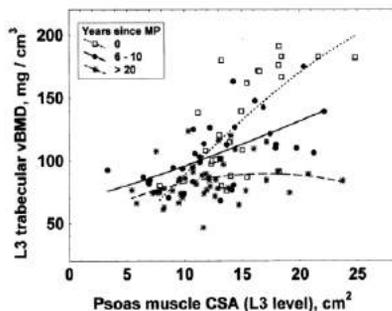
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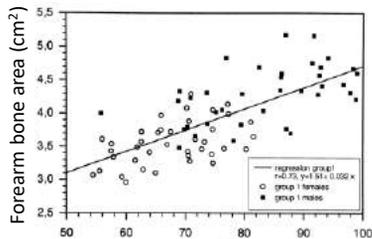
Sex & Menopause Effects on Bone-Muscle Relationships



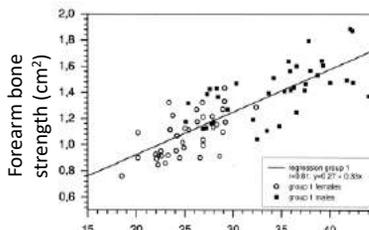
Ferretti et al, 2003; Scheissl et al, 1996 – declining bone-muscle index with postmenopausal women



Ferretti et al, 2003; Ferretti et al, 1996 – declining bone-muscle index with increasing years since menopause



(Rittweger et al, 2000) Forearm muscle area (cm²)



(Rittweger et al, 2000) Forearm muscle moment (cm²*m)

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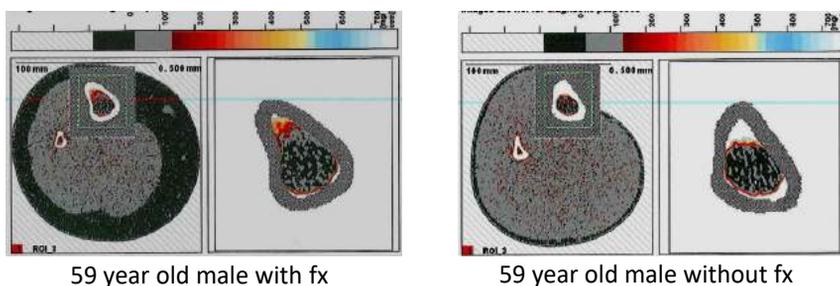
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MrOS: Lower B-M indices → increased fx risk

■ All men Mean age: 77.2 ± 5.1 years Mean BMI: 28.0 ± 4.0 kg/m² 5 Years N= 1163 (79 fx)

Parameter	HR	95% CI	C stat	p-value
Bone strength/muscle area	1.42	(1.09, 1.84)	0.6051	0.009^a
Bone mass/muscle mass	1.74	(1.36, 2.24)	0.6461	< 0.001^a
LS BMD	1.51	(1.15, 1.99)	0.6257	0.003
TH BMD	2.09	(1.62, 2.69)	0.6776	<0.001

■ a = adjusted for grip strength, walking speed & aBMD



(Wong et al 2014, J Musculoskeletal Neur Int)

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Discriminative Power for Fx

- Most bone-muscle indices had poor sensitivity and specificity for identifying those with fractures

Parameter	AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity	p-value
Bone strength/muscle area	0.579	56.06%	53.56%	0.009
Bone mass/muscle mass	0.621	58.96%	58.12%	<0.001
LS BMD	0.643	60.45%	59.53%	<0.001
TH BMD	0.672	61.94%	61.46%	<0.001

- DXA – difficult to tease out true lean tissue mass
- Analyses done in general area but not specific muscle group inserting into bone

(Wong et al 2014, J Musculoskel Neur Int)

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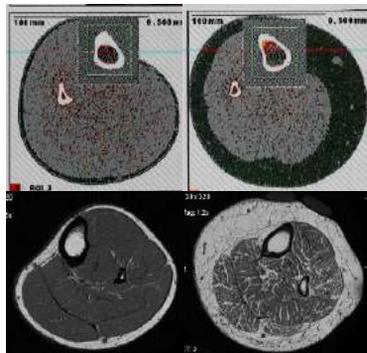
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Muscle Properties & Odds for Fragility Fractures



■ All women Mean age: 72.2 ± 7.7 years Mean BMI: 27.7 ± 5.4 kg/m² 4 Years N= 525 (46 fx)



Muscle fat volume accounts for 54% of variance in muscle density (MD)

Variable	OR (Unadj)	Expressed per SD	OR (Adj)	Expressed per SD
MD	1.57 (1.19,2.08)	-3.77	1.68 (1.20, 2.34)	-3.76
MM	1.13 (0.88, 1.45)	-66.37	1.31 (0.98, 1.75)	-66.76
MCSA	0.98 (0.76, 1.26)	-954.4	1.15 (0.85, 1.55)	-966.0
pQCT Muscle density + bone at the 66% site				
MD + vBMD _i	1.56 (1.18, 2.06)	-3.72	1.67 (1.20, 2.32)	-3.71
pQCT Muscle density + bone at the 4% site				
MD + vBMD _i	1.63 (1.22, 2.17)	-3.72	1.64 (1.17, 2.29)	-3.71

Lower muscle and bone density associated with fractures independently of one another

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Bone* Muscle Interactions' Associations with Fractures

Bone* Muscle @ 66% site	N(Fx)	Interaction P-value
Density	449(37)	0.002
Area	449(37)	0.363
Content	449(37)	0.120

Conditional Effects	HR (95% CI)
Cortical vBMD @ 1st (lowest) quartile of MD	0.59(0.34,1.02)
Cortical vBMD @ 2nd quartile of MD	1.09(0.75,1.58)
Cortical vBMD @ 3rd quartile of MD	2.01(1.30,3.12)
Cortical vBMD @ 4th (highest) quartile of MD	3.74(1.90,7.35)

- Normal muscle but abnormal bone was associated with a higher risk for fragility fractures
- Effect largely at the cortex
 - effect blunted for integral vBMD, and
 - not significant for trabecular vBMD

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Weaker Muscles can → Frailty

Frailty Phenotype (*Fried et al.*)

- Rules-based & physiological
- Defined by ≥ 3 criteria:
 - decreased grip strength
 - slow walking speed
 - decreased physical activity
 - weight loss
 - self-reported exhaustion

Result is ordinal or binary

Fried, J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci 2001.

Cumulative Deficits “Frailty Index” (*Rockwood et al.*) framework

- Holistic: diseases, cognition, mood, psychosocial items
- 30-70 cumulative deficits
- calibrated to specific criteria
- Continuous scale – values from 0 to 1

Rockwood, Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, 2007.

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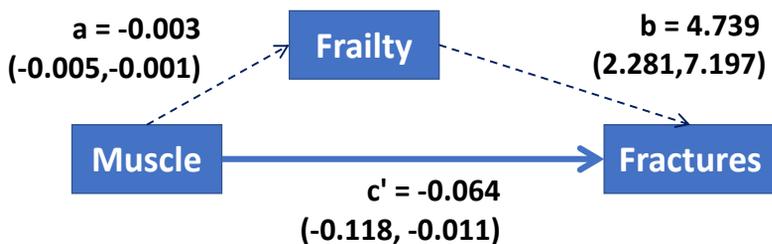
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Frailty Mediates the Muscle-Fracture Relationship

- 26/525 (5.0%) women were frail (CFI>0.25)



Variable	NOT FRAIL			FRAIL (CFI >0.25)			P value
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	
MD (mg/cm ³)	499	71.86	3.39	26	69.44	4.62	0.004
MCSA (mm ²)	499	5981	938	26	5573	780	0.009
MM (mg)	499	429.50	68.11	26	386.20	56.53	0.001



Muscle may play a role in fracturing bones in 2 ways:

- 1) weaker forces acting on bone makes bone fragile
- 2) poorer muscles make individuals frail and due to lack of energy, they fall and break bones

Direct effect:

c' = -0.064 (-0.118, -0.011)

Indirect effect:

-0.003 x 4.739 = -0.015 (-0.033, -0.004) (23.4%)

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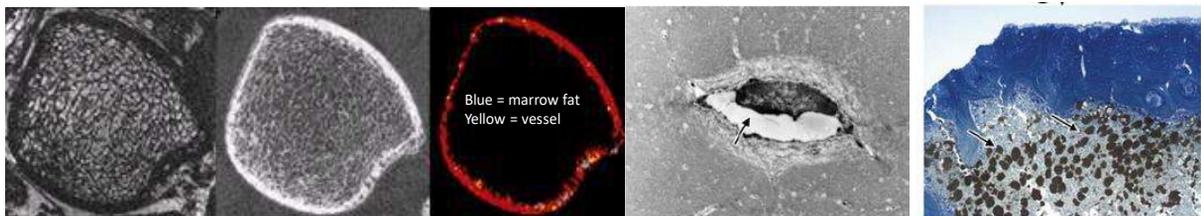
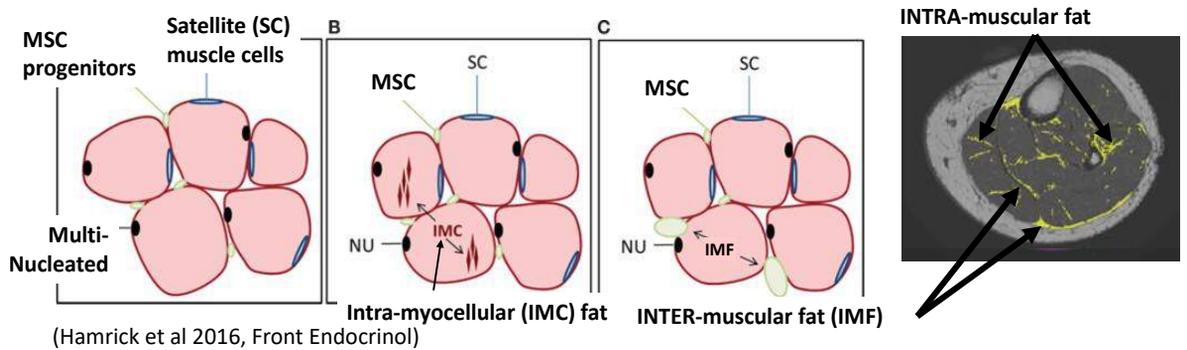
Interactions: Fat in Bone & Muscle

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Fat accumulates within muscle and bone



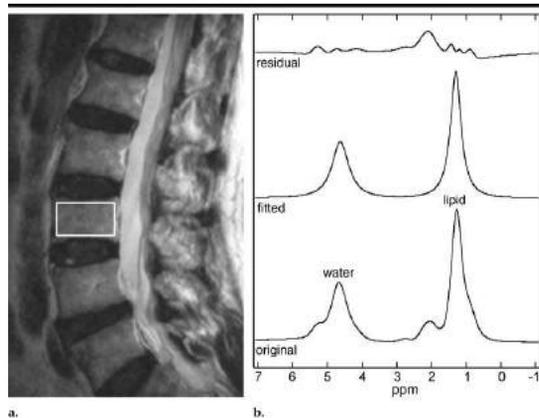
(Goldstein et al 2010, Ann Biomed Eng)

(Maurel et al, 2012, Alcohol and Alcoholism)

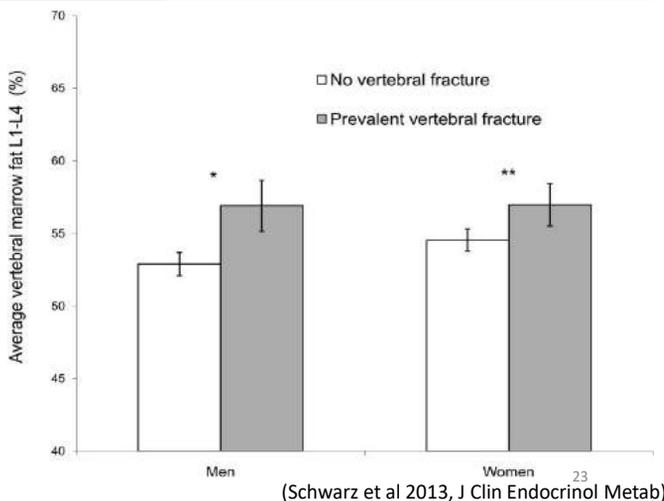
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Vertebral marrow fat associated with weaker bones

Effect of marrow fat on Spine QCT	Men (N = 118)		Women (N = 139)	
	% Diff	(95% CI)	% Diff	(95% CI)
Trabecular vBMD	-6.14	-11.90 to 0.00	-10.49	-17.21 to -3.23
Total vBMD	-1.00	-4.09 to 2.19	-4.83	-7.93 to -1.63
Axial strength	-6.99	-15.90 to 2.86	-15.57	-23.06 to -7.35
CSA	-0.30	-2.79 to 2.26	-0.23	-2.36 to 1.95



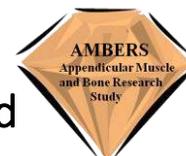
(Griffith et al, 2005, Radiology)



(Schwarz et al 2013, J Clin Endocrinol Metab)

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The Appendicular Muscle and Bone Extension Research Study (AMBERS) (N=312) – CIHR Funded



Variables	No Osteoporosis (N=269)				Osteoporosis (N=54)				p-Value
	Mean/N	SD/%	Min	Max	Mean/N	SD/%	Min	Max	
Age (years)	75.26	6.06	63	89	76.48	5.58	67	86	0.173
BMI (kg/m ²)	30.08	5.61	17.93	48.24	26.34	5.9	16.41	53.8	<0.001
66% FA (mm ²)	812.64	386.88	223.43	2553.11	886.7	881.69	329.33	6320.94	0.354
66% pFA (%)	13.16	5.31	4.97	34.67	14.68	7.22	6.74	42.62	0.094
66% MD (mg/cm ³)	67.43	5.94	46.44	76.1	67.59	4.37	52.86	74.04	0.853
66% MwD (mg/cm ³)	21.61	10.78	0.00	57.50	16.99	8.01	2.40	40.90	0.004

(Wong et al, 2020 J Bone Miner Res)

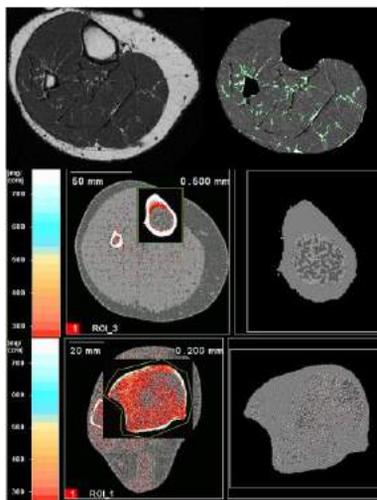
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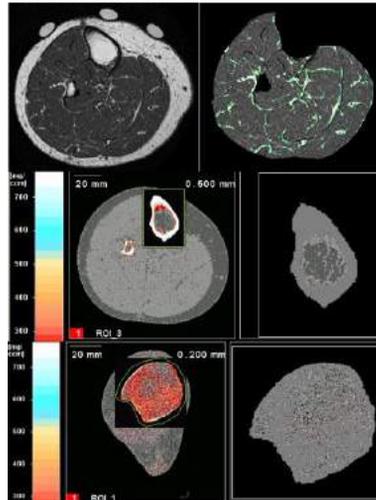
Fat infiltration in bone & muscle are related

Higher fracture risk associated with more muscle fat and more bone marrow fat

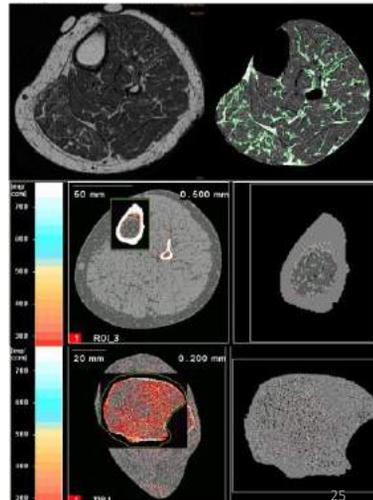
A) LOW fracture risk



B) MODERATE fracture risk



C) HIGH fracture risk



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Fat infiltration in bone & muscle are related

Higher fat content in bone marrow & calf muscle better related in those with osteoporosis

	Per 10 mg/cm ³	Fully Adjusted		
Muscle fat	Marrow Fat	B	SE	P-value
FA (mm ²)	MwD (thres) 66%	-84.08	27.56	0.002^a
pFA (%)	MwD (thres) 66%	-0.90	0.30	0.003
MD (mg/cm ³)	MwD (thres) 66%	0.68	0.25	0.007

	Per 10 mg/cm ³	No Osteoporosis (N=246)			Osteoporosis (N=51)			
Muscle fat	Marrow fat	B	LowerCI	UpperCI	B	LowerCI	UpperCI	Int P*
FA (mm ²)	MwD (thres) 66%	-29.10	-66.94	8.74	-591.33	-1004.70	-177.96	<0.001^a
pFA (%)	MwD (thres) 66%	-0.36	-0.90	0.17	-3.90	-7.41	-0.39	0.048
MD (mg/cm ³)	MwD (thres) 66%	0.40	-0.13	0.94	0.92	-0.45	2.29	0.775

(Wong et al, 2020 J Bone Miner Res)

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Interactions: Bone & Muscle in Joints

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Joint Diseases - Osteoarthritis (OA)

- Increased incidence of OA in the **knee joint** (Buckwalter et al. 2007)
- By 2040, 24% of Canadians will have arthritis, **with up to 60% being women over 65**
- Affects **cartilage**, **knee angle** but **subchondral bone** and **bone marrow** also impacted
- Traditionally associated with obesity & post-trauma
 - Treated with weight management & pain management



Image from Sofat et al. 2011

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Distribution of Non-Overweight in Knee OA Patients

Osteoarthritis Initiative (OAI): men and women with KL ≥ 2 (N=1086) (Wong et al, 2018 abstract)

- **18.4% < BMI of 25 kg/m²**
- 37.2% between 25 and 30 kg/m², 44.4% ≥ 30 kg/m²

Ulm Osteoarthritis Study (N=809 candidates for TKA & THA) (Sturmer et al, 2000)

- **14.1% < BMI of 25 kg/m²**
- 45.0% between 25 and 30 kg/m², 40.9% ≥ 30 kg/m²

Swedish cohort (N=825 JSW ≤ 3 mm) (Holmberg et al, 2005)

- **19.0% < BMI of 25 kg/m²**
- 50.0% between 25 and 30 kg/m², 30.5% ≥ 30 kg/m²

Catalonia Spain (N=83,469, primary care doctor record of knee OA diagnosis) (Reyes et al, 2016)

- **10.5% < BMI of 25 kg/m²**
- 37.6% between 25 and 30 kg/m², 51.8% ≥ 30 kg/m²

COPCORD, Northern China (N=983, doctor dx w/ radiographic confirmation) (Zhang et al, 2013)

- **47.2% < BMI of 24 kg/m²**
- 35.3% between 24 and 28 kg/m², 14.4% ≥ 28 kg/m²

Singapore Chinese Health Study (N=1649 TKR for severe knee OA) (Leung et al, 2015)

- **35.7% < BMI of 24 kg/m²**
- 34.5% between 24 and 27 kg/m², 29.8% ≥ 27 kg/m²

Arthritis Clinics in Phillipines (N=533 w/ radiographic evidence) (Racaza et al, 2012)

- **18.2% < BMI of 23 kg/m²**
- 33% between 23 and 25 kg/m², 48.8% above 25 kg/m²

Mean distribution
of non-overweight knee OA :
24.95%
(range 10.5-47.2%)

COPCORD, Southern China (N=244, symptomatic & radiographic knee OA) (Zeng et al, 2006)

- **36.48% < BMI of 24 kg/m²**,
- 46.31% between 24 and 28 kg/m²
- 17.21% \geq BMI of 28 kg/m²

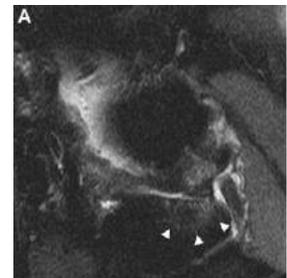
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Recognized bone abnormalities in Knee OA

Bone Marrow Lesions (BMLs) in Knee OA

- **BML** = Acute or recurrent damage within subchondral bone leading to inflammation (Sharkey et al. 2012)
- BMLs associated with weight bearing pain (RR: **2.0, p<0.001**) (Lo et al. 2009)
- Larger BMLs associated with subchondral attrition (flattening) (OR:**18.8(15.9,22.4)**) (MOST Study, Roemer et al. 2010)
- Weaker bone from OP may increase risk of subchondral bone damage \rightarrow **BML** formation



30 Mo Follow-up - BML & attrition

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Is there any basis for bone metabolism / osteoporosis to influence osteoarthritis?

Global bone Abnormalities in Knee OA population

- Bone resorption markers **31-87%** higher in OA vs controls BUT no different from OP group ($p < 0.01$) (Chingford study, Bettica et al. 2002)
- Women with OA more likely to fracture limbs (**OR 2.49(1.77, 3.48)**) compared to controls with normal or osteopenic bone density (Chan et al. 2014)
- Men with vert disc space narrowing & osteophytosis at increased risk of vert fractures (**HR: 1.84-2.52**) (Pariante et al. 2017)

Type I collagen telopeptides

N-terminal

Control	37.0 (25.5, 60.4)
Prog OA	53.9 (39.6, 79.1) [†]
Non-Prog OA	40.1 (28.1, 56.5) [§]
Osteoporosis	59.8 (44.1, 80.4) [†]

C-terminal

Control	126.5 (77.5, 205.8)
Prog OA	214.0 (145.2, 285.4) [‡]
Non-Prog OA	180.6 (96.1, 246.7) [¶]
Osteoporosis	236.5 (178.9, 293.2) [†]

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Recognized muscle abnormalities in knee OA

Muscle Association with Osteoarthritis

- Radiographic knee OA was associated with baseline sarcopenia in women (**RR: 1.91(1.71, 3.11)**) (Misra et al. 2018)
- Leg lean mass was lower in knee OA (**19.2 ± 2.7%**) compared to controls (**21.0 ± 2.9%**) ($p < 0.001$) (Toda et al. 2000)
- Baseline knee extensor strength in **women** associated with knee OA (**OR:1.72(1.16, 2.56)**) (Culvenor et al. 2016)
- Higher knee adduction moment associated with greater cartilage loss (**20.5% variance explained**) (Maly et al, 2015)
- No studies examining periarticular muscle specifically

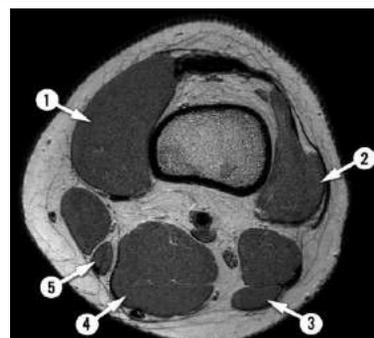


Image from www.radiopaedia.org

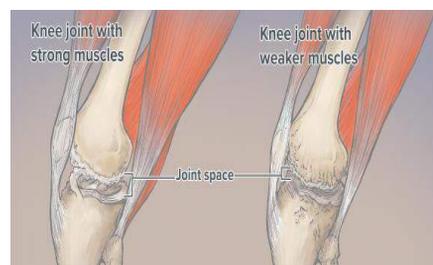


Image from www.arthritis-health.com 32

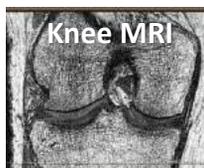
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Osteoarthritis (OA) Initiative (N=1086)

- 15.2% of patients with knee OA have osteoporosis
 - 18.4% BMI of <25 kg/m²
 - 37.2% between 25 and 30 kg/m²
 - 44.4% ≥ 30 kg/m²

Var	OP (214)	No OP (845)	P-value
Age	67.2± 8.4	64.2± 8.9	<0.001
BMI	29.1± 4.9	30.5± 4.9	<0.001
PASE	128± 77	154± 84	<0.001
Serum Vit D	27.74 ±10.42	25.60 ±9.78	0.237
FN BMD T-score (167)	0.21± 1.15	0.49± 1.10	0.180



Compartment	No Osteoporosis (N=237)	Osteoporosis (N=52)	P-Value*
Medial aBMD	1.135 g/cm ²	1.042 g/cm ²	<0.001
Lateral aBMD	1.023 g/cm ²	0.925 mg/cm ²	<0.001
Medial Tb.Sp	1.637 mm	2.245 mm	<0.001
# of BMLs	1.23 # total	0.96 # total	0.043
Edema in BMLs	2.66%	1.99%	0.040 ³³

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In the OP Group – Cartilage was not associated with pain (but neither was bone*)

General Linear Model with OP Group Interaction – Followed by Pick-a-Point Probing

Cartilage measures	No Osteoporosis (N=852)	Osteoporosis (N=165)	Interaction P-value
Expressed per 1 mm lower			
KOOS Symptoms (lower scores greater symptoms)			
Medial wb ThC (mm)	-2.4(-1.4,-3.5)	0.7(-2.0,3.5)	0.027
Lateral wb ThC (mm)	-2.3(-1.4,-3.3)	1.7(-1.2,4.6)	0.008
Medial mean ThC (mm)	-4.0(-0.3,-7.7)	6.5(-3.0,16.1)	0.038
Lateral mean ThC (mm)	-7.4(-4.8,-9.9)	2.5(-5.4,10.3)	0.011
Affected wb ThC (mm)	-4.1(-3.1,-5.1)	0.2(-2.7,3.0)	0.003
Affected mean ThC (mm)	-9.5(-6.2,-12.8)	3.0(-6.5,12.5)	0.009
WOMAC Stiffness (Higher scores greater symptoms)			
Medial wb ThC (mm)	0.2(0.1,0.3)	0.0(-0.3, 0.2)	0.093
Lateral wb ThC (mm)	0.2(0.1,0.3)	-0.2(-0.5,0.1)	0.022
Medial mean ThC (mm)	0.6(0.2,0.9)	-0.8(-1.8,0.2)	0.021
Lateral mean ThC (mm)	0.5(0.3,0.8)	-0.5(-1.3,0.4)	0.035
Affected wb ThC (mm)	0.3(0.2,0.4)	0.0(-0.3,0.3)	0.054
Affected mean ThC (mm)	0.8(0.5,1.1)	-0.4(-1.4,0.6)	0.047

* Subchondral DXA and MRI was only examined in 289 with only 52 OP cases

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The Appendicular Muscle and Bone Extension Research Study (AMBERS) (N=312) – CIHR Funded

- 48 month prospective cohort study
- imaging bones and muscles (peripheral CT, DXA)
- captured knee surgeries, radiographic ascertainment
- Knee OA diagnosis validated against primary care data

Univariate General Linear Models

Variables	Knee OA (N=80)				No Knee OA (N=232)				p Value
	Mean/#	SD/%	Min	Max	Mean/#	SD/%	Min	Max	
Age (years)	76	5.8	64	89	75.4	6.1	63	86	0.186
Height (cm)	156.68	6.68	144	174	155.4	6.32	141	172	0.285
Weight (kg)	78.89	13.73	57	115	67.94	13.86	35	108	0.015
TUG (s)	10.73	2.69	6.68	18.78	10.36	3.35	6.12	38.53	0.055
BMD T-score	-1.54	1.03	-3.6	0.9	-1.71	1.03	-5.7	3.2	0.824
Antires Use	53	37.9%			54	29.5%			0.114
GC Use	11	7.9%			10	5.5%			0.387
Fragility Fx	11	7.9%			13	7.1%			0.798

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Knee OA & OP BONE Differences in Postmenopausal Women –AMBERS (N=312)

General Linear Model – Accounting for covariates: age, BMI, use of OP medication, GC use, kidney/liver disease/diabetes

Tibial bone vars	KOA+OP vs. Neither			KOA+OP vs. OP			KOA+OP vs KOA		
	B	Lower CL	Upper CL	B	Lower CL	Upper CL	B	Lower CL	Upper CL
Trabecular separation (mm)	0.101	0.029	0.173	-0.003	-0.108	0.101	0.139	0.077	0.201
Bone volume (fraction)	-0.081	-0.141	-0.021	-0.001	-0.059	0.056	-0.113	-0.176	-0.050
Cortical BMD (mg/cm ³)	-57.43	-101.18	-13.68	-19.75	-53.26	13.76	-56.86	-108.25	-5.47
Trabecular BMD (mg/cm ³)	-16.56	-31.89	-1.23	-1.35	-11.44	8.74	-21.16	-39.34	-2.98

Bone properties in those with both Knee OA and OP are no different from those with just OP alone

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Postmenopausal Knee Imaging of Intramedullary Pressure (PoKIMP Study) – CIHR Funded

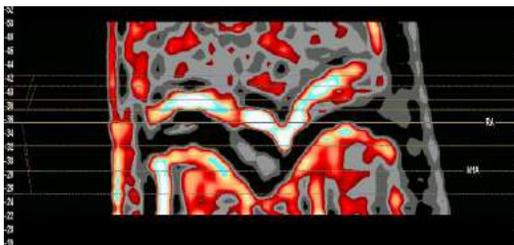
- Cross-sectional study, target N=125 – convenience sampling
- Postmenopausal women 50-85 years old, BMI < 25 kg/m²
- Variable degrees of knee pain
- No joint replacements and no RA
- No contraindications to MRI, no kidney disease (for Gd injection)
- Anteroposterior knee radiographs
- Peripheral CT of knee (subchondral bone & periarticular muscle)
- MRI: PD-weighted, water-excitation, fat-water separated Dixon, perfusion MRI (DCE-MRI)
- Functional measures, 3 pain measures (painDETECT, ICOAP, KOOS)

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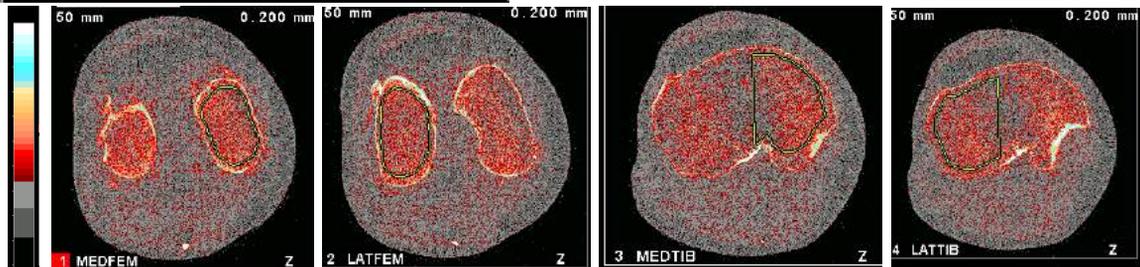
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Analysis of subchondral bone from peripheral CT



- Reference lines placed at each compartment
- ROI defined by contouring and reducing by 20% in area
- ROI centered in articulating region



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Difference in subchondral bone properties between groups

N=50	Healthy		Knee OA		p-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Subchondral Tib/Fem					
Tissue Mineral Density	351.9	40.07	304.2	52.39	<0.001
Bone Mineral Density	307.7	50.81	252.1	65.41	<0.001

- Variances can be assumed to be equal (p value: 0.11)

Univariate analysis due to low sample size at present

Difference in periarticular muscle between groups

N=50	Healthy		Knee OA		p-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Periarticular measures					
Fat area	744.7	289.5	638.1	199.7	0.012
Fat content	12.42	3.63	10.98	2.80	0.010
Total area	3767	713	3545	481	0.033
Total density	69.91	5.61	75.58	9.52	<0.001

- Variances are not equal (p value < 0.05)

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Synthesis of Tissue Interactions

- Bone-Muscle-Joints interact in varying degrees
- Loss of integrity of one could affect the other
 - And may be complemented by invasion of fat
- Common denominator:
 - Its origin: mesenchymal stem cells – driven by differentiation
 - External factors: hormones, drugs, environment, exercise
- Effects may not be restricted to one (central) site

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Perspective

- We should pay attention to not only bone, but also muscle loss and fat accumulation
- Abnormalities in bone, muscle and fat are not restricted to hip & spine
 - they could also affect the joints
- Common culprits should not be ignored:
 - estrogen loss, androgen loss / deprivation, glucocorticoid use
- How might we approach these related insults comprehensively?
- Should we integrate the way we study / treat MSK conditions?

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