

Recommended Dose of Alfacalcidol for Osteoporosis

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The present study aims to investigate a proper dose of alfacalcidol by using the parathyroid level as a marker due to the end product of alfacalcidol is calcitriol which has a property of suppression secretion of parathyroid glands. The research enrolled 259 volunteers which were divided into 2 groups. Each group took the elemental calcium 800 milligram plus alfacalcidol at the different doses. Group (A) received alfacalcidol 1.0 microgram/day and Group (B) had alfacalcidol 1.5 micrograms/day for 3 months. Group (A) could not suppress the secretion of PTH compared with Group (B) of which the PTH level was decreased significantly ($p = 0.047$). Alfacalcidol in both groups can not decrease the bone resorption monitored by using the bone resorption marker, BetacrossLaps or bCTx.

Keywords: Alfacalcidol, Betacrosslap, bCTx, PTH

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Vitamin D is essential to bone health. The purpose of administration with a proper form of vitamin D can be applied to the following conditions. Plain vitamin D is used not only as a supplement in children and pregnant women but also as a preventive treatment for the extraosseous manifestation such as colon, breast, and prostate cancers. The new daily recommendation dose for infants is 400 IU⁽¹⁾, for children is 400-600 IU, 2,000IU for menopausal women⁽²⁾, 4,000 IU for lactation⁽³⁾, 2,000-4,000 for females and 2,000 IU for males. The active form called calcitriol is recognized as a replacement therapy for enhancing intestinal absorption of calcium and minerals, renal resorption of calcium, antiresorption and proper bone remodeling. The suitable dose is 0.5-0.75 microgram per day. Alfacalcidol is an analogue form used in osteoporosis for enhancing the increase of bone mass and muscle power. The doses are varied from 0.5 to 1.0 microgram. This paper showed that 1.5 microgram of alfacalcidol which is quite a high dose is effective.

Normally, after taking vitamin D which has many forms⁽⁴⁾, it will be changed into 25 (OH) D or calcidiol at the liver, then be metabolized at the kidney to be an active form, *i.e.* Calcitriol or 1, 25 (OH) D. The active form means the readiness to be used; it

needs not to transform again. The Alfacalcidol can change into an active form at the liver. Skin is the main source of providing vitamin D containing 7-dehydrocholesterol as a precursor to body by inducing it from the sunlight when being exposed. The other precursor vitamin D called Cholecalciferol will turn into calcidiol at the liver.

Material and Method

The subjects were 259 female, menopausal volunteers divided into 2 groups: Group (A), $n = 129$, received alfacalcidol 1.0 microgram/day for 3 months and Group (B), $n = 130$, received alfacalcidol 1.5 microgram/day for 3 months. Both groups took the elemental calcium 800 milligram per day. The 5-ml blood samples were collected before the treatment and after the 3-month treatment for the check of parathyroid hormone levels and bone markers, CTx. The serum of PTH samples was measured by the electrochemiluminescence (ECLIA) technique on an Elecsys 1010.

The bone marker named CTX measured by using a monoclonal antibody (Roche®) which recognizes an octapeptide on the C-terminal of collagen type-1 molecule. This method called Beta-Crosslap which is a specific marker of bone resorption.

Statistical analysis

The data analysis was calculated by SPSS version 10. The baseline demographic and characteristics were shown in Table 1.

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Results

Group (B) displayed by the significant suppression of PTH level was superior to Group (A) (Fig. 1). Both groups, nevertheless, failed to stop the bone resorption (Fig. 2). The results were shown in Table 2.

Group (A) cannot suppress the parathyroid level ($p = 0.25$) as much as Group (B). Both groups failed to decrease the bone resorption after 3 months.

Discussion

Alfacalcidol is a popular application in bone

Table 1. The baseline characteristics of the participants

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Gender | Female |
| Age | 50-60 |
| Years of menopause | < 3 yrs |
| Underlying disease | Nil |
| Previous medication | Nil |

Table 2. Summary of the results of Group (A) and Group (B)

| | Group (A) 1.0 microgram | | | Group (B) 1.0 microgram | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|------|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| | Baseline | 3 m | p | Baseline | 3 m | p |
| PTH | 45.670 | 43.27 | 0.25 | 57.200 | 43.84 | 0.047 |
| CTx | 0.732 | 1.647 | 0.54 | 0.269 | 1.177 | 0.330 |

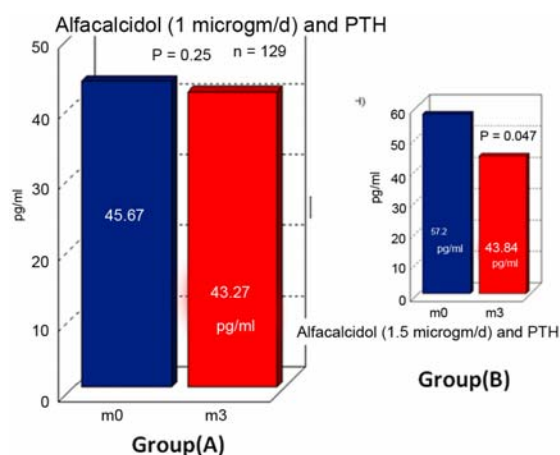


Fig. 1 The dose response of PTH in Group (A) was not changed ($p = 0.25$) while the PTH in Group (B) was decreased significantly at the dose of 1.5 microgram ($p = 0.047$)

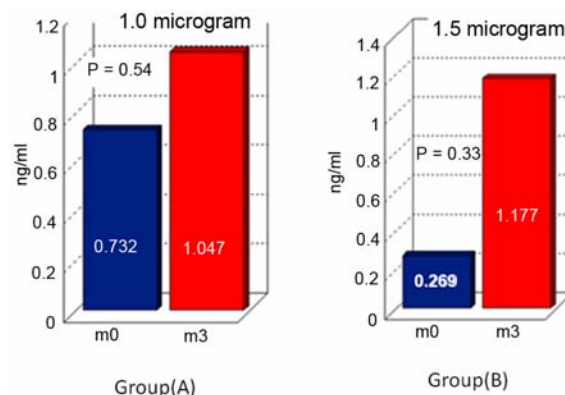


Fig. 2 Alfacalcidol does not decrease bone resorption in both groups, but the bone resorption increases significantly in both doses

disease but the dose has to be considered carefully. At present, there is no proper marker for finding alfacalcidol as plain vitamin D. Thus, monitoring the PTH level is a suitable method. On the other hand, the high dose of alfacalcidol results in less common hypercalcemia compared with other forms of vitamin D. However, it is safer if the elemental calcium administration does not exceed 800 milligram per day. It is also suggested to monitor the calcium level monthly.

Alfacalcidol cannot stop the bone resorption in both groups meanwhile the uncontrollable bone resorption was increased when comparing with calcitriol (0.75 microgram/day) which showed the dramatic stop of bone resorption⁽⁵⁾.

Potential conflicts of interest

None.

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แนะนำขนาดยาวิตามินดี แอนนาล็อก(อัลฟาคัลซิไดล) ในขนาดที่มีผลในการรักษากระดูกพรุน

ณรงค์ บุญยะรัตเวช

เนื่องจากระดับพาราไทรอยด์ฮอร์โมนสูงจัดเป็นปัจจัยเสี่ยงต่อการเกิดกระดูกพรุน และจากการศึกษาขนาดยาอัลฟาคัลซิไดลที่มีผลลดการหลั่งพาราไทรอยด์ ในสตรีวัยหมดประจำเดือนที่ไม่มีโรคแฝงจำนวน 259 ราย ที่มีอายุระหว่าง 50-60 ปี และหมดประจำเดือนมากกว่า 3 ปี โดยแบ่งเป็น 2 กลุ่ม คือ กลุ่ม เอ ได้ยาขนาด 1.0 ไมโครกรัม และกลุ่ม บี ได้ยาอัลฟาคัลซิไดล ขนาด 1.5 ไมโครกรัม นาน 3 เดือน ทุกๆรายได้รับการตรวจหา ระดับ พาราไทรอยด์, บีตา-ซีทีเอกซ์ ก่อนได้รับยาและเมื่อยาครบ 3 เดือน ผลการศึกษาพบว่า กลุ่ม บี ที่ได้ยาขนาด 1.5 ไมโครกรัมต่อวัน สามารถลดระดับพาราไทรอยด์จาก 57.2 พิโคกรัมต่อ มล. เป็น 43.84 พิโคกรัม มีผลต่างอย่างมีนัยสำคัญ ($p = 0.047$) ส่วนกลุ่มที่ได้ยาขนาด 1.0 ไมโครกรัม ไม่ห้ามการหลั่งของ บีทีเอกซ์ ค่า บีทีเอกซ์ ก่อนได้ยาและหลัง 3 เดือน ไม่แตกต่างอย่างมีนัยสำคัญ ($p = 0.25$) แต่ทั้งสองกลุ่มไม่สามารถลดค่าการสลายกระดูก (ซีทีเอกซ์) ($p = 0.54$, $p = 0.33$ ตามลำดับ).

สรุปการใช้ยาขนาด 1.5 ไมโครกรัม สามารถลดการหลั่งพาราไทรอยด์ได้และเป็นดัชนีที่บอกความพอเพียงของระดับวิตามินดีได้ ดังนั้นระดับพาราไทรอยด์จึงเป็นตัวชี้บอกที่สำคัญ
