Final Recommendation Statement

Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: Screening

January 14, 2025

Recommendations made by the USPSTF are independent of the U.S. government. They should not be construed as an official position of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Recommendation Summary

Population	Recommendation	Grade
Women 65 years or older	The USPSTF recommends screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in women 65 years or older. See the "Practice Considerations" section for more information on screening tests.	**B**
Postmenopausal women younger than 65 years with 1 or more risk factors for osteoporosis	The USPSTF recommends screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women younger than 65 years who are at increased risk for an osteoporotic fracture as estimated by clinical risk assessment. See the "Practice Considerations" section for more information on risk assessment and screening tests.	**B**
Men	The USPSTF concludes that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in men. See the "Practice Considerations" section for suggestions for practice regarding the I statement.	**I**

Pathway to Benefit

To achieve the benefit of screening to reduce morbidity and mortality from fractures, women found to have osteoporosis should be further evaluated, counseled, and, if appropriate, prescribed evidence-based management.

Clinician Summary

What does the USPSTF recommend?	**Women 65 years or older:** Screen for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures. **Grade: B**
	Postmenopausal women younger than 65 years with 1 or more risk factors for osteoporosis: Screen for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures. **Grade: B**
	Men: The current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in men. **Grade: I statement**
To whom does this recommendation apply?	These recommendations apply to adults 40 years or older without known osteoporosis or history of fragility fractures. They do not apply to persons with secondary osteoporosis due to an underlying medical condition (eg, cancer, metabolic bone diseases, or hyperthyroidism) or chronic use of a medication (eg, glucocorticoids) associated with bone loss.
What's new?	• For the current recommendation, the USPSTF has noted that screening includes dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) bone mineral density (BMD), with or without fracture risk assessment. • This recommendation is otherwise consistent with the 2018 USPSTF recommendation on screening for osteoporosis.
How to implement this recommendation?	• Screen women 65 years or older with DXA BMD, with or without fracture risk assessment. • For postmenopausal women younger than 65 years, the USPSTF suggests first assessing for the presence of 1 or more risk factors for osteoporosis. For women who have 1 or more risk factors, assess for increased risk using a clinical risk assessment tool. For women assessed to be at increased risk, screen for osteoporosis with DXA BMD, with or without fracture risk assessment. • To achieve the benefit of screening to reduce morbidity and mortality from fractures, women found to have osteoporosis should be further evaluated, counseled, and, if appropriate, receive evidence-based management. • There is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against screening for osteoporosis in men. • Clinicians should use their clinical judgment regarding whether to screen for osteoporosis in men.
Why is this recommendation and topic important?	• Osteoporotic fractures are associated with psychological distress, subsequent fractures, loss of independence, reduced ability to perform activities of daily living, and death. Evidence shows that only 40% to 60% of persons experiencing a hip fracture recover their prefracture level of mobility and ability to perform activities of daily living. • The age-adjusted prevalence of osteoporosis is 12.6% among community-dwelling US residents 50 years or older. Prevalence of osteoporosis is higher among persons 65 years or older (27.1% in women and 5.7% in men) and in women compared with men.
What are other relevant USPSTF recommendations?	The USPSTF has issued recommendations on interventions to prevent falls in community-dwelling older adults and on the use of vitamin D and calcium to prevent fractures and falls in community-dwelling adults.

What are additional tools and resources?	The National Institutes of Health has information on osteoporosis (https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/osteoporosis, https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/osteoporosis/diagnosis-treatment-and-steps-to-take, and https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/osteoporosis/osteoporosis).
Where to read the full recommendation statement?	Visit the USPSTF website (https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/) or the *JAMA* website (https://jamanetwork.com/collections/44068/united-states-preventive-services-task-force) to read the full recommendation statement. This includes more details on the rationale of the recommendation, including benefits and harms; supporting evidence; and recommendations of others.

The USPSTF recognizes that clinical decisions involve more considerations than evidence alone. Clinicians should understand the evidence but individualize decision-making to the specific patient or situation.

View the Clinician Summary in PDF

Additional Information

Final Evidence Review (January 14, 2025)

Evidence Gaps Research Taxonomy Table (January 14, 2025)

Evidence Summary (January 14, 2025)

Final Research Plan (November 18, 2021)

Recommendation Information

Table of Contents	PDF Version and JAMA Link	Archived Versions
Preamble Importance USPSTF Assessment of Magnitude of Net Benefit Practice Considerations Update of Previous USPSTF Recommendation Supporting Evidence Research Needs and Gaps Authors of the Recommendation Statement Copyright and Source Information References	View the Recommendation in PDF Format To read the recommendation statement in *JAMA*, select here. To read the evidence summary in *JAMA*, select here.	(June 2018) (January 2011) (January 2002) (January 1996)

Full Recommendation:

Recommendations made by the USPSTF are independent of the U.S. government. They should not be construed as an official position of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Preamble

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) makes recommendations about the effectiveness of specific preventive care services for patients without obvious related signs or symptoms to improve the health of people nationwide.

It bases its recommendations on the evidence of both the benefits and harms of the service and an assessment of the balance. The USPSTF does not consider the costs of providing a service in this assessment.

The USPSTF recognizes that clinical decisions involve more considerations than evidence alone. Clinicians should understand the evidence but individualize decision-making to the specific patient or situation. Similarly, the USPSTF notes that policy and coverage decisions involve considerations in addition to the evidence of clinical benefits and harms.

The USPSTF is committed to mitigating the health inequities that prevent many people from fully benefiting from preventive services. Systemic or structural racism results in policies and practices, including health care delivery, that can lead to inequities in health. The USPSTF recognizes that race, ethnicity, and gender are all social rather than biological constructs. However, they are also often important predictors of health risk. The USPSTF is committed to helping reverse the negative impacts of systemic and structural racism, gender-based discrimination, bias, and other sources of health inequities, and their effects on health, throughout its work.

Importance

Osteoporosis is a skeletal disorder characterized by decreased bone mass leading to increased bone fragility and fracture risk. Osteoporotic fractures are associated with psychological distress, subsequent fractures, loss of independence, reduced ability to perform activities of daily living, and death. Morbidity from fragility fractures at central skeletal sites, particularly the hip, is much greater than morbidity from fragility fractures at other sites.[1] Evidence shows that only 40% to 60% of persons experiencing a hip fracture recover their prefracture level of mobility and ability to perform activities of daily living.[2]

The age-adjusted prevalence of osteoporosis is 12.6% among community-dwelling US residents 50 years or older. Prevalence of osteoporosis is higher among persons 65 years or older (27.1% in women and 5.7% in men), in women compared with men,[3] and among Asian, Hispanic, and White persons.[4]

USPSTF Assessment of Magnitude of Net Benefit

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) concludes with moderate certainty that screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in women 65 years or older has **moderate net benefit**.

The USPSTF concludes with moderate certainty that screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women younger than 65 years at increased risk has **moderate net benefit**.

The USPSTF concludes that the evidence is insufficient and the balance of benefits and harms for screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in men **cannot be determined**.

See Table 1 for more information on the USPSTF recommendation rationale and assessment. For more details on the methods the USPSTF uses to determine the net benefit, see the USPSTF Procedure Manual.[5]

Practice Considerations

Patient Population Under Consideration

This recommendation applies to adults 40 years or older without known osteoporosis or history of fragility fractures. It does not apply to persons with secondary osteoporosis due to an underlying medical condition (eg, cancer, metabolic bone diseases, or hyperthyroidism) or chronic use of a medication (eg, glucocorticoids) associated with bone loss.

In this recommendation statement, the recommendations are stratified by "men" and "women," although the net benefit estimates are driven by sex as assigned at birth (ie, male/female) rather than gender identity. In describing the evidence, sex terms are reported as used by study authors, which are typically "men" and "women." Transgender men and transgender women who have not undergone any hormonal treatment associated with transitioning likely have the same risks as persons assigned female and male sex at birth; however, they should consult with their clinician to determine which recommendation best applies to them.

Definitions

In 1994, the World Health Organization defined osteoporosis in postmenopausal White women as bone density at the hip or lumbar spine that is 2.5 standard deviations or lower (T score ≤–2.5) than the mean bone mineral density (BMD) measured at that site for a reference population of young healthy White women.[6] This ultimately became the reference standard for persons of all racial and ethnic groups, and for males and females.[7]

Fragility fractures (also known as "low-energy" or "low-trauma" fractures) are fractures sustained from a fall from standing height or lower that would not cause a fracture in most healthy persons.[8]

Major osteoporotic fracture (MOF) is defined as a fracture of the hip, spine, wrist, or shoulder.

Assessment of Risk

Although bone density is an important risk factor for fragility fractures, advancing age is a stronger determinant.[9] Older adults have much higher fracture rates than younger adults with the same BMD because of concurrent increasing risk from declining bone quality and an increasing risk of falling.[10]

When deciding which postmenopausal women younger than 65 years to screen, the USPSTF suggests a 2-step approach. Clinicians can first determine the presence of risk factors for osteoporosis and fracture. These include menopausal status, low body weight, parental history of hip fracture, cigarette smoking, and excess alcohol consumption.[11,12] For postmenopausal women younger than 65 years with 1 or more risk factors (in addition to postmenopausal status), the USPSTF then recommends using a clinical risk assessment tool (ie, a tool designed to identify osteoporosis or predict fracture risk) to estimate risk and help decide whether screening is warranted. More details about risk assessment tools and increased risk are provided in the Screening Tests and Screening Strategies section.

Other medical conditions and medications (eg, corticosteroids or diabetes treated with insulin) may also increase risk of osteoporosis and, subsequently, fragility fractures. The prevalence of osteoporosis and incidence of osteoporotic fractures differs among racial and ethnic groups. Studies show lower fracture incidence in Asian, Black, and Hispanic populations compared with White populations among both men and women.[13,14] Differences in BMD alone are not sufficient to explain racial and ethnic differences in fracture incidence. For example, Asian women have been found to have lower BMD than White women but lower fracture risk.[15-17] Although the underlying causes for the differences in fracture incidence among racial and ethnic groups remain uncertain, they are likely due in part to social and environmental factors or differences in clinical risks.[1]

Screening Tests and Screening Strategies

The most commonly used bone measurement test to screen for osteoporosis is dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) at a central site (eg, total hip, femoral neck, or lumbar spine). Centrally measured DXA correlates with bone strength and clinical fracture outcomes and uses low doses of radiation.[18] Fracture risk at a specific site is best predicted if bone density is measured at that site.[19]

Some evidence suggests that BMD alone may not be the most useful predictor of fracture risk, especially in younger populations.[20] Several risk assessment tools that incorporate age and sex, with or without other risk factors, have been developed to either identify probability of osteoporosis or predict fracture risk. It is important to note that some of the risk assessment tools were developed on small cohorts of homogeneous populations or have limited published evidence.

Risk assessment tools designed to estimate future fracture risk that can be used with or without BMD as a risk factor input include FRAX,[8] the Fracture Risk Calculator (FRC),[21] and the Garvan Fracture Risk Calculator.[22,23] Of note, the predictive accuracy of these tools often improves when BMD is included in the risk assessment calculation.[1] Risk assessment tools designed to

identify osteoporosis (eg, the Osteoporosis Risk Assessment Instrument [ORAI] and the Osteoporosis Self-assessment Tool [OST]) generally require fewer risk inputs than tools designed to predict fracture risk.[1]

FRAX is the most studied fracture risk assessment tool. Country-specific versions of FRAX are available that have been calibrated using country-specific fracture incidence and mortality data, which are part of the FRAX risk calculation.[24] As of 2016, FRAX was incorporated into 120 guidelines worldwide and added into DXA software following regulatory approval by the US Food and Drug Administration and has been incorporated into clinical decision support tools within electronic health record systems.[25] FRAX predicts the 10-year probability of hip fracture or MOF for persons aged 40 to 90 years by using demographic and clinical factors alone or in combination with BMD measured at the femoral neck.[24,26] Risks predicted by FRAX alone and by BMD alone are similar, but both are less accurate than risks predicted by FRAX plus BMD.[27] In the US, 4 different versions of FRAX calibrated using racial- and ethnic-specific fracture incidence data are available, including unique versions for Hispanic, non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic Black, and non-Hispanic White persons.[25] Concerns exist regarding the validity of race-specific FRAX calculators. Because hip fracture incidence in the US is lower in most non-White racial and ethnic groups, predicted fracture risk estimates for Asian, Black, and Hispanic persons will always be lower than for White persons of the same age, sex, weight, BMD, and clinical risk factors in the FRAX model,[28,29] which could lead to racial and ethnic differences in who is offered treatment among persons of otherwise identical age, BMD, and clinical risk profile. It is also unclear which version of FRAX to use for persons who are multiracial, or immigrants from other countries who are now living in the US.[30] Other limitations of the FRAX instrument include use of binary exposure to glucocorticoids and alcohol use (yes/no vs quantified dose exposure), lack of use of lumbar spine BMD or trabecular bone score, lack of information collected about history of falls or frailty, use of cohort studies that are 30 to 40 years old to estimate race-specific fracture incidence, use of mortality estimates that have not been updated since 2004, and lack of inclusion of medical conditions such as diabetes that may portend an increased risk.[25,31,32]

Screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures consists of a central DXA BMD, with or without fracture risk assessment. Because most fragility fractures occur in persons without osteoporosis (ie, with DXA T scores >-2.5), some screening strategies focus on identifying those at risk for fracture and not just those with osteoporosis.[25] Results from randomized clinical trials (RCTs) are now available that evaluated screening strategies using some combination of the FRAX risk calculation and BMD; no published studies have been designed to evaluate a treatment strategy based on fracture risk (ie, FRAX) alone. Centrally measured DXA was the test used to determine eligibility for participants enrolled in nearly all trials of bone-conserving pharmacotherapies.[1] Thus, screening can entail DXA with or without fracture risk assessment.

Similarly, approaches to determining whom to screen among postmenopausal women younger than 65 years who have 1 or more risk factors (ie, determining who is at increased risk) could reasonably focus on assessment of fracture risk or risk of osteoporosis, using 1 of several risk assessment tools. Table 2 includes examples of risk assessment tools that have been reported to have reasonable accuracy for identifying osteoporosis (OST or ORAI) or predicting hip fracture (FRAX) in women younger than 65 years.[1] The risk assessment tools for identifying osteoporosis (OST or ORAI)[34,35] have commonly used thresholds for defining increased risk at which further screening with DXA is suggested (Table 2). For FRAX, there is no such threshold defined with respect to its use in screening. However, to provide context, a 65-year-old White female with a body mass index (BMI) of 25 (calculated as weight in kilograms divided by square of height in meters) and no risk factors has a 10-year risk of hip fracture of 1.3% and a 10-year risk of MOF of 9.3% based on FRAX without BMD input. The USPSTF does not intend that these 10-year risk levels (in the example given) be used as mechanistic thresholds for determining who should receive further screening with DXA. Rather, it is suggested that the results of risk assessment be used to help inform decisions about further screening with DXA.

Screening Intervals

Cohort studies evaluating screening intervals suggest that repeating BMD testing at an interval of 4 to 8 years does not result in additional accuracy in predicting fractures.[1] Other studies attempted to identify appropriate screening intervals based on the time in which it takes individuals to transition to osteoporosis or a certain fracture risk threshold. The screening intervals varied across studies, but generally, transition to osteoporosis occurred over shorter intervals for individuals with lower baseline T scores and older age (eg, almost 17 years for 10% of women with normal BMD at baseline to develop osteoporosis vs about 5 years for women with a baseline T score in the −1.50 to −1.99 range).[36]

Treatment

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved several drug therapies for the treatment or prevention of osteoporosis, including bisphosphonates, denosumab, romosozumab, parathyroid hormone, raloxifene, calcitonin, and estrogen (with or without progesterone).

Clinicians should be aware that treatment recommendations that are based on risk assessment tools with race-specific calculators (eg, FRAX) but that use fixed fracture risk treatment thresholds not specific to race and ethnicity may be less likely to identify Asian, Black, and Hispanic persons as high risk and, subsequently, may be less likely to offer treatment compared with White persons of the same age, BMD, and clinical risk profile. Similarly, prediction models that do not include conditions that are associated with increased fracture risk and that disproportionately affect certain racial and ethnic groups (eg, diabetes) may result in biased underestimates of risk. For these reasons, it may be reasonable to avoid strict application of risk assessment tool treatment thresholds at the individual level to account for additional risks (eg, fall risk) not considered in risk assessment tools like FRAX.[37,38]

Suggestions for Practice Regarding the I Statement

When deciding whether to screen for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in men, clinicians should consider the following factors.

Potential Preventable Burden

Based on National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data from 2017 to 2018, age-adjusted prevalence of osteoporosis is 12.6% among US residents 50 years or older. Prevalence is higher in women (19.6%) compared with men (4.4%) and among persons 65 years or older (27.1% in women and 5.7% in men) compared with persons aged 50 to 64 years (13.1% in women and 3.3% in men).[3]

Morbidity and mortality resulting from a fragility fracture are the primary concerns from having osteoporosis. Based on Medicare data, approximately 1.8 million beneficiaries experienced a new osteoporotic fracture in 2016.[39] Although osteoporosis and fragility fractures are more common in women than men, excess mortality related to osteoporosis and fragility fractures is greater in men.[40,41]

Men have similar risk factors associated with fragility fractures as women, including increasing age, low BMI, excessive alcohol intake, current smoking, chronic corticosteroid use, history of prior fractures, history of falls within the past year, hypogonadism, history of cerebrovascular accident, and history of diabetes.[42]

Potential Harms

Potential harms of screening in men may be similar to those in women. Evidence on harms of drug therapies in men is limited.[1]

Current Practice

Data on how frequently men are screened for osteoporosis are limited. Guidelines developed by various organizations and specialty societies vary. Some organizations recommend screening for osteoporosis in men older than 70 years. Other organizations do not specify for or against screening in men or recommend against it.[1]

Additional Tools and Resources

The National Institutes of Health has information on osteoporosis (https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/osteoporosis, https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/osteoporosis/diagnosis-treatment-and-steps-to-take, and https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/osteoporosis/osteoporosis).

Other Related USPSTF Recommendations

The USPSTF recommends exercise interventions to prevent falls in community-dwelling adults 65 years or older at increased risk of falls and selectively offering multifactorial interventions based on circumstances of prior falls, presence of comorbid medical conditions, and the patient's values and preferences.[43] In its 2018 recommendation statement, the USPSTF recommended against supplementation with 400 IU or less of vitamin D and 1000 mg or less of calcium in postmenopausal women to prevent fractures. The USPSTF found insufficient evidence on supplementation with higher doses of vitamin D and calcium, alone or

combined, to prevent fractures in postmenopausal women, or at any dose in men and premenopausal women.[44] This recommendation is in the process of being updated; in the current draft recommendation, the USPSTF recommends against supplementation with vitamin D with or without calcium for the primary prevention of fractures in community-dwelling postmenopausal women and men 60 years or older, and against supplementation with vitamin D for the prevention of falls in community-dwelling postmenopausal women and men 60 years or older.

Update of Previous USPSTF Recommendation

This recommendation updates the 2018 USPSTF recommendation on screening for osteoporosis. In 2018, the USPSTF recommended screening for osteoporosis with bone measurement testing to prevent osteoporotic fractures in women 65 years or older and in postmenopausal women younger than 65 years who are at increased risk of osteoporosis, as determined by a formal clinical risk assessment tool.[45] For the current recommendation, the USPSTF has noted that screening can include DXA BMD, with or without fracture risk assessment. The current recommendation is otherwise generally consistent with the 2018 recommendation.

Supporting Evidence

Scope of Review

The USPSTF commissioned a systematic review to evaluate the benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures in adults 40 years or older with no known diagnosis of osteoporosis or history of fragility fracture.[1,46] This review presents data to update the USPSTF's 2018 recommendation. The previous recommendation evaluated multiple imaging modalities (eg, peripheral DXA and quantitative ultrasound); however, this review only reports evidence for central DXA—the bone measurement test most commonly used to screen for osteoporosis.

Accuracy of Screening Tests and Risk Assessment

BMD

Central DXA measures BMD at central bone sites (hip and lumbar spine) and is the established standard for the diagnosis of osteoporosis. Additionally, centrally measured DXA was the test used for determining T scores and determining eligibility among participants enrolled in nearly all trials of bone-conserving pharmacotherapies. Still, given that screening trials enrolled participants based on fracture risk, and that the goal of treating osteoporosis is to prevent fracture, the USPSTF reviewed studies that reported on the accuracy of centrally measured BMD for predicting fracture. The USPSTF found 13 unique cohorts that reported on the discrimination of BMD alone (as a continuous variable) for predicting MOF. These studies reported areas under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUCs) ranging from 0.60 to 0.80. Twelve cohorts reported AUCs for predicting hip fracture; they were somewhat more accurate than MOF outcomes, with AUCs ranging from 0.64 to 0.86.[1,46]

Fewer studies reported on the predictive accuracy of BMD in women younger than 65 years. One study of women aged 45 to 54 years in the United Kingdom reported an AUC for predictive accuracy of BMD at the femoral neck of 0.64 (95% CI, 0.63-0.66) over a follow-up of 3 to 12 years.[47] One retrospective study exclusively in men 65 years or older reported an AUC for BMD over a follow-up of 15.8 years of 0.76 (95% CI, 0.71-0.80) for the prediction of MOF and 0.76 (95% CI, 0.72-0.81) for the prediction of hip fracture.[48]

Accuracy of Risk Assessment Instruments to Identify Osteoporosis

Forty-three unique cohorts reported on diagnostic accuracy of 15 risk assessment instruments for identifying osteoporosis. More than one-half of the cohorts included populations with a mean age between 60 and 69 years, and included women, men, or both. In women, AUCs ranged from 0.32 to 0.87 across 35 reports evaluating 11 instruments. In men, AUCs ranged from 0.62 to 0.94 across 18 reports evaluating 12 instruments.[1,46]

The most studied instruments were FRAX, OST, ORAI, and Simple Calculated Osteoporosis Risk Estimation (SCORE). For cohorts reporting AUCs based on FRAX MOF risk, the AUCs ranged from 0.55 to 0.79, and for cohorts based on FRAX hip fracture risk, AUCs ranged from 0.70 to 0.86, across both sexes. For OST, the reported AUCs for women across 14 cohorts ranged from 0.64 to 0.81. Six cohorts reported an AUC for OST of 0.63 to 0.83 in women younger than 65 years. For ORAI, the reported AUCs for women across 19 cohorts (excluding 1 outlier) ranged from 0.32 to 0.84. Five cohorts reported results in women younger than 65 years, and the AUCs ranged from 0.60 to 0.84. For SCORE, AUCs for women across 16 studies ranged from 0.58 to 0.87 (excluding 1 outlier). For all instruments evaluated, variation in AUC was partly attributable to different risk or score thresholds used to evaluate accuracy across cohorts.[1,46]

Accuracy of Risk Assessment Instruments to Predict Fracture

The USPSTF found 6 systematic reviews and 16 cohorts that reported on the accuracy of 11 risk assessment models (EPIC [Escala de Predicción de fracturas Implementable en historia Clínica electronica], FRAX, FRC, FREM [Fracture Risk Evaluation Model], Garvan, ORAI, OSIRIS [Osteoporosis Index of Risk], OST, QFracture, SCORE, and the Women's Health Initiative Prediction Model) to predict MOF, hip fracture, or both using primarily AUC. Findings were heterogeneous, spanning a range of AUCs from 0.52 to 0.93; however, most were between 0.60 and 0.80. For risk assessment instruments with the option to include BMD as an input (FRAX, FRC, and Garvan), the predictive accuracy often improved when BMD was included compared with when it was not included. Further, some instruments (FRAX, FRC, Garvan, and QFracture) had better accuracy for predicting hip fracture than for predicting MOF.[1,46] For example, in 3 systematic reviews reviewed by the USPSTF, the AUCs for 10-year risk of MOF for FRAX in women ranged from 0.65 to 0.67 without BMD and from 0.67 to 0.71 when BMD was included, and the AUCs for 10-year risk of hip fracture for FRAX in women ranged from 0.74 to 0.77 without BMD and ranged from 0.76 to 0.79 when BMD was included.[49-51]

For studies reporting outcomes specifically for women younger than 65 years, reported AUCs ranged from 0.52 to 0.71 across instruments. For example, for FRAX without BMD, the AUCs for 10-year risk of MOF ranged from 0.56 to 0.59 across 3 studies,[52-54] and the AUCs for 10-year risk of hip fracture were 0.65 and 0.68 in 2 analyses reported in 1 study.[53] For studies reporting outcomes for men, the AUCs ranged from 0.63 to 0.93.[1,46]

Effectiveness of Early Detection and Treatment

The USPSTF found 3 RCTs that reported on the effects of screening on clinical fracture outcomes: the Screening in the Community to Reduce Fractures in Older Women (SCOOP) study (n = 12,483 randomized),[55] the Risk-stratified Osteoporosis Strategy Evaluation (ROSE) study (n = 34,229 randomized population; n = 18,605 [per–protocol-1 analysis population]),[56] and the Stichting Artsen Laboratorium en Trombosedienst Osteoporosis Study (SOS) (n = 11,032 randomized).[57] All 3 RCTs included older European women (median age, 71 to 76 years); racial or ethnic characteristics were not reported in 2 of the 3 trials. The USPSTF found no studies that included men. Two RCTs (SCOOP and ROSE) used a 2-step screening intervention consisting of a FRAX risk assessment (without BMD input) on participants assigned to screening and then invited those with a high fracture risk score (≥15% risk for MOF in ROSE; at or above the age-based hip fracture risk threshold in SCOOP) for DXA. The mean or median 10-year FRAX-estimated risk of MOF was 19% in SCOOP, 20% in ROSE, and 24.6% in SOS; the respective 10-year estimated hip fracture risks were 8.5%, 6.7%, and 11.6%.[55-57] Test results and treatment recommendations were shared with participants' primary care physicians, who made final decisions about treatment; the comparison group in all 3 studies was routine care. A pooled analysis of these studies found a statistically significant reduction in hip fractures and MOF. The pooled relative risk (RR) for the effect of screening on hip fractures was 0.83 (95% CI, 0.73-0.93; 3 RCTs; 42,009 participants), and the pooled RR for MOF was 0.94 (95% CI, 0.88-0.99; 3 RCTs; 42,009 participants). This corresponded to an absolute risk difference (ARD) of 5 fewer hip fractures (95% CI, 7 to 2 fewer) and 6 fewer MOFs (95% CI, 12 to 1 fewer) per 1000 participants over 3.7 to 5 years.[1,46]

The USPSTF also reviewed evidence on the benefits of treating low bone density. Twenty-one RCTs compared bisphosphonates with placebo. Most used T-score thresholds as a criterion to enroll participants, and 6 of the 21 trials required T scores in the osteoporotic range. Most trials were conducted among postmenopausal women, 1 trial was conducted in men, and 3 trials included a very small proportion of men. The mean age across trials ranged from 53 to 72 years. Studies reported clinical fractures (eg, hip, wrist, vertebral, and other sites), radiographic vertebral fractures, or both.

The effect of bisphosphonates on vertebral fracture outcomes was reported in 10 trials. Five trials compared alendronate with placebo, 2 compared risedronate with placebo, and 3 compared zoledronic acid with placebo. The pooled RR was 0.51 (95% CI, 0.39-0.66; 10 RCTs; 9015 participants), corresponding to an ARD of 18 fewer vertebral fractures per 1000 participants treated (95% CI, 23 to 13 fewer).[1] The effect of bisphosphonates on hip fracture was reported in 6 trials. Three studies compared alendronate with placebo, 2 compared risedronate with placebo, and 1 compared zoledronic acid with placebo. The pooled RR was 0.67 (95% CI, 0.45-1.00; 6 trials; 12,055 participants), corresponding to an ARD of 3 fewer hip fractures per 1000 participants (95% CI, 5 to 0 fewer).[1,46]

One trial reported on the effectiveness of zoledronic acid in 1199 men with mean femoral neck T scores of −2.2. It found a reduced risk of morphometric vertebral fractures in the treatment group (1.5% vs 4.6%; RR, 0.33 [95% CI, 0.16-0.70]) but no significant difference in nonvertebral fractures (0.9% vs 1.3%; RR, 0.65 [95% CI, 0.21-1.97]).[58]

Only 1 trial (the FREEDOM [Fracture Reduction Evaluation of Denosumab in Osteoporosis Every 6 Months] trial; n = 7808) was powered to look at the effect of denosumab on fracture outcomes. It reported a statistically significant decrease in incident radiographic vertebral fractures (2.3% vs 7.2%; RR, 0.32 [95% CI, 0.26-0.41]), incident clinical vertebral fractures (0.8% vs 2.5%; RR, 0.31 [95% CI, 0.20-0.47]), nonvertebral fractures (6.1% vs 7.5%; RR, 0.80 [95% CI, 0.67-0.95]), and hip fractures (0.7% vs 1.1%; RR, 0.60 [95% CI, 0.37-0.97]) in women randomized to denosumab.[59] One small study (n = 242) investigated the effects of denosumab on BMD in men but was not powered to look at fracture outcomes.[60]

Harms of Screening and Treatment

Evidence on the harms of screening for osteoporosis is limited.[1,46] The SCOOP trial reported no difference in anxiety between participants in the screening and control groups.[55]

Several trials reported on the harms of treatment of bisphosphonates. A pooled analysis of 21 RCTs found no significant difference in serious adverse events. One trial reported a statistically significant increase in gastrointestinal adverse events in the treatment group compared with placebo;[61] however, a pooled analysis of 26 RCTs (representing 27 comparisons) found no significantly increased risk of gastrointestinal adverse events in participants taking bisphosphonates compared with those taking placebo. Six RCTs that reported on the incidence of atrial fibrillation found no statistically significant increased risk. Three RCTs reporting on incidence of myocardial infarction had very imprecise RR estimates with wide CIs because of small sample sizes and rare events.[1,46]

Although 1 study of zoledronic acid in men reported a statistically significant increase in incident myocardial infarction (RR, 4.68 [95% CI, 1.02-21.5]), this outcome was not statistically significant in 2 other RCTs. Relative risk estimates were imprecise and CIs were wide in all these studies.[1,46] One cohort study of zoledronic acid users found no statistically significant differences in atrial fibrillation (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 1.18 [95% CI, 0.99-1.40]), myocardial infarction (aHR, 0.92 [95% CI, 0.64-1.31]), or cardiovascular mortality (aHR, 0.97 [95% CI, 0.81-1.15]) but did find a statistically significant increased risk for heart failure (aHR, 1.32 [95% CI, 1.08-1.61]), although it did not control for known confounders of heart failure such as BMI, smoking and alcohol exposure, or hypertension.[62]

Osteonecrosis of the jaw and atypical fractures of the femur are potential rare harms of bisphosphonates. Five trials of bisphosphonates reported no cases of osteonecrosis of the jaw, and no trials reported on atypical femur fractures.[1,46] A cohort study of new users of zoledronic acid reported an increased risk of atypical femur fractures (aHR, 2.46 [95% CI, 1.17-5.15]),[62] and a cohort study of new bisphosphonate users reported an increased risk of atypical femur fractures with bisphosphonate use (aHR, 1.53 [95% CI, 1.36-1.73]) over a mean follow-up of 1 year,[63] although both studies may have been subject to residual confounding. One systematic review that did not meet inclusion criteria for the current review because no comparator group of nonusers was included reported incidence estimates for osteonecrosis of the jaw in individuals using bisphophonates ranging from 0.01% to 0.06%.[64]

For denosumab, pooled analyses found no significant increase in serious adverse events (5 RCTs) or upper gastrointestinal tract adverse events (4 trials), although the CIs were wide for that outcome. Two trials reported no significant increase in cardiovascular events, although the estimate was imprecise in 1 of these trials. Three trials reported no cases of osteonecrosis of the jaw, and 2 trials reported no cases of atypical femur fracture.[1,46]

Response to Public Comment

A draft version of this recommendation statement was posted for public comment on the USPSTF website from June 11 to July 8, 2024. Some comments requested that the USPSTF recommend screening for osteoporosis in men. The USPSTF agrees that osteoporosis can be a significant source of morbidity and mortality in men. However, there are no studies on the benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis or fracture risk in men, and evidence on the benefits and harms of treatment is very limited. The USPSTF wants to clarify that the I statement is not a recommendation against screening; it indicates that the evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms and is a call for more research. In the absence of evidence, clinicians and their patients should decide together whether to be screened. The USPSTF also wants to reiterate that this recommendation does not apply to individuals, including men, who have medical conditions or are taking medications associated with bone loss.

Some comments requested that this recommendation statement include other modalities in addition to DXA BMD. This recommendation statement focuses on DXA for several reasons, including that DXA is the most commonly used bone density measurement test to screen for osteoporosis, it correlates with bone strength and clinical fracture outcomes, it uses a low dose of radiation, and it was the test used for determining T scores and eligibility among participants in nearly all trials of bone-conserving pharmacotherapies. Some comments requested that the USPSTF specify a screening interval. In response, the USPSTF notes that the evidence related to screening intervals for osteoporosis is limited; what is known that could be helpful is discussed in the Practice Considerations section, and the USPSTF calls for more research to help inform appropriate screening intervals.

In response to public comment, the USPSTF clarified that screening can include DXA with or without fracture risk assessment, that it suggests using a 2-step approach for postmenopausal women younger than 65 years, and that Table 2 is intended to provide examples of tools that can be used to predict fracture risk or identify osteoporosis but is not intended to be a comprehensive list. Last, the USPSTF agrees with comments that more research is needed on bone density in transgender persons and has specified this as a research need (see the online version of Table 3 [https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/home/getfilebytoken/kHT3WGUaG2wTz2pF_ke7bn]).

Research Needs and Gaps

See Table 3 for research needs and gaps related to screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures.

Recommendations of Others

Several organizations have put forth osteoporosis and fracture risk screening guidelines that vary based on age, sex, menopausal status, and other characteristics. Some organizations recommend a combination of fracture risk assessment and DXA screening. In 2023, the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care recommended screening women 65 years or older for fracture risk with the Canadian FRAX tool to facilitate shared decision-making about pharmacotherapy. If pharmacotherapy is considered, it then recommends ordering DXA testing to reestimate fracture risk with BMD input to the FRAX. It recommended against screening men 40 years or older and women younger than 65 years.[65] The 2020 American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists guideline recommends evaluating all women 50 years or older for fracture risk and considering BMD measurement based on clinical fracture risk profile.[66]

Other guidelines focus on osteoporosis screening via DXA measurement of BMD in older adults. The 2021 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists guidelines recommend BMD screening with DXA beginning at age 65 years in all women and selective screening with BMD in women younger than 65 years who have an elevated risk of osteoporosis based on a formal clinical risk assessment tool.[67] The American Academy of Family Physicians follows the USPSTF's 2018 recommendation; however, it specifically recommends against DXA screening in women younger than 65 years and in men younger than 70 years with no risk factors.[68,69]

Authors of the Recommendation Statement

The authors of this recommendation statement include Task Force members serving at the time of publication and former members who made significant contributions to the recommendation. Any member with a level 3 conflict of interest (COI) recusal is not included as an author (see below for relevant COI disclosures for this topic).

The US Preventive Services Task Force authors of this recommendation statement include the following individuals: Wanda K. Nicholson, MD, MPH, MBA (George Washington University, Washington, DC); Michael Silverstein, MD, MPH (Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island); John B. Wong, MD (Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts); David Chelmow, MD (Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond); Tumaini Rucker Coker, MD, MBA (University of Washington, Seattle); Esa M. Davis, MD, MPH (University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore); Carlos Roberto Jaén, MD, PhD, MS (University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio); Marie Krousel-Wood, MD, MSPH (Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana); Sei Lee, MD, MAS (University of California, San Francisco); Li Li, MD, PhD, MPH (University of Virginia, Charlottesville); Carol M. Mangione, MD, MSPH (University of California, Los Angeles); Gbenga Ogedegbe, MD, MPH (New York University, New York, New York); Goutham Rao, MD (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio); John M. Ruiz, PhD (University of Arizona, Tucson); James Stevermer, MD, MSPH (University of Missouri, Columbia); Joel Tsevat, MD, MPH (University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio); Sandra Millon Underwood, PhD, RN (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee); Sarah Wiehe, MD, MPH (Indiana University, Bloomington).

JAMA Citation: US Preventive Services Task Force; Nicholson WK, Silverstein M, Wong JB, et al. Screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA*. 2025;333(6):498-508. doi: 10.1001/jama.2024.27154.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures: Authors followed the policy regarding conflicts of interest described at https://uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/about-uspstf/conflict-interest-disclosures. All members of the USPSTF receive travel reimbursement and an honorarium for participating in USPSTF meetings. Dr Chelmow reported serving as chair for the Women's Preventive Services Initiative Multidisciplinary Steering Committee and serving as chair on the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist Practice Advisory Committee. In these roles, he was involved in the development of practice guidelines related to osteoporosis. Dr Lee reported receiving grants from National Institute on Aging (K24AG066998) and National Institute on Aging (R01AG079982) outside the submitted work. No other level 3 disclosures were reported.

No Task Force members had a level 3 COI recusal from this topic.

Funding/Support: The USPSTF is an independent, voluntary body. The US Congress mandates that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) support the operations of the USPSTF.

Role of the Funder/Sponsor: AHRQ staff assisted in the following: development and review of the research plan, commission of the systematic evidence review from an Evidence-based Practice Center, coordination of expert review and public comment of the draft evidence report and draft recommendation statement, and the writing and preparation of the final recommendation statement and its submission for publication. AHRQ staff had no role in the approval of the final recommendation statement or the decision to submit for publication.

page should be cited as the source.

References

1. Kahwati LC, Kistler CE, Booth G, et al. *Screening for Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures: An Evidence Review for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force*. Evidence Synthesis No. 238. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2025. AHRQ publication 23-05312-EF-1.
2. Dyer SM, Crotty M, Fairhall N, et al; Fragility Fracture Network (FFN) Rehabilitation Research Special Interest Group. A critical review of the long-term disability outcomes following hip fracture. *BMC Geriatr.* 2016;16(1):58. Medline:27590604 doi:10.1186/s12877-016-0332-0
3. Sarafrazi N, Wambogo EA, Shepherd JA. *Osteoporosis or Low Bone Mass in Older Adults: United States, 2017–2018.* NCHS Data Brief No. 45. National Center for Health Statistics; 2021. doi:10.15620/cdc:103477
4. QuickStats: percentage of adults aged ≥50 years with osteoporosis, by race and Hispanic origin–United States, 2017–2018. *MMWR Morbid Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2021;70(19):731. Medline:33983912 doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7019a5
5. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Procedure Manual. Published 2021. Accessed November 18, 2024. https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/about-uspstf/methods-and-processes/procedure-manual
6. Assessment of fracture risk and its application to screening for postmenopausal osteoporosis. Report of a WHO Study Group. *World Health Organ Tech Rep Ser*. 1994;843:1-129. Medline:7941614
7. International Society for Clinical Densitometry. Indications for Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Testing. Accessed May 15, 2024. https://iscd.org/learn/official-positions/adult-positions
8. Kanis JA; World Health Organization Scientific Group. *Assessment of Osteoporosis at the Primary Health Care Level: Technical Report*. World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Metabolic Bone Diseases; 2008.
9. Kanis JA, Johnell O, Oden A, Dawson A, De Laet C, Jonsson B. Ten year probabilities of osteoporotic fractures according to BMD and diagnostic thresholds. *Osteoporos Int*. 2001;12(12):989-995. Medline:11846333 doi:10.1007/s001980170006
10. Heaney RP. Bone mass, bone loss, and osteoporosis prophylaxis. *Ann Intern Med*. 1998;128(4):313-314. Medline:9471936 doi:10.7326/0003-4819-128-4-199802150-00014
11. Richelson LS, Wahner HW, Melton LJ III, Riggs BL. Relative contributions of aging and estrogen deficiency to postmenopausal bone loss. *N Engl J Med*. 1984;311(20):1273-1275. Medline:6493283 doi:10.1056/NEJM198411153112002
12. Cummings SR, Nevitt MC, Browner WS, et al; Study of Osteoporotic Fractures Research Group. Risk factors for hip fracture in white women. Study of Osteoporotic Fractures Research Group. *N Engl J Med*. 1995;332(12):767-773. Medline:7862179 doi:10.1056/NEJM199503233321202
13. Liu LH, Chandra M, Gonzalez JR, Lo JC. Racial and ethnic differences in hip fracture outcomes in men. *Am J Manag Care*. 2017;23(9):560-564. Medline:29087156
14. Lo JC, Zheng P, Grimsrud CD, et al. Racial/ethnic differences in hip and diaphyseal femur fractures. *Osteoporos Int*. 2014;25(9):2313-2318. Medline:24964891 doi:10.1007/s00198-014-2750-1
15. Lo JC, Chandra M, Lee C, Darbinian JA, Ramaswamy M, Ettinger B. Bone mineral density in older U.S. Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, and White women. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2020;68(11):2656-2661. Medline:33047307 doi:10.1111/jgs.16785
16. Walker MD, Babbar R, Opotowsky AR, et al. A referent bone mineral density database for Chinese American women. *Osteoporos Int*. 2006;17(6):878-887. Medline:16538554 doi:10.1007/s00198-005-0059-9
17. Lo JC, Kim S, Chandra M, Ettinger B. Applying ethnic-specific bone mineral density T-scores to Chinese women in the USA. *Osteoporos Int*. 2016;27(12):3477-3484. Medline:27468900 doi:10.1007/s00198-016-3673-9
18. Ward RJ, Roberts CC, Bencardino JT, et al; Expert Panel on Musculoskeletal Imaging. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® osteoporosis and bone mineral density. *J Am Coll Radiol*. 2017;14(5s):S189-S202. Medline:28473075 doi:10.1016/j.jacr.2017.02.018
19. Kanis JA. Diagnosis of osteoporosis and assessment of fracture risk. *Lancet*. 2002;359(9321):1929-1936. Medline:12057569 doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(02)08761-5
20. Sanders KM, Nicholson GC, Watts JJ, et al. Half the burden of fragility fractures in the community occur in women without osteoporosis. When is fracture prevention cost-effective? *Bone*. 2006;38(5):694-700. Medline:16507356 doi:10.1016/j.bone.2005.06.004
21. Lo JC, Pressman AR, Chandra M, Ettinger B. Fracture risk tool validation in an integrated healthcare delivery system. *Am J Manag Care*. 2011;17(3):188-194. Medline:21504255
22. Nguyen ND, Frost SA, Center JR, Eisman JA, Nguyen TV. Development of prognostic nomograms for individualizing 5-year and 10-year fracture risks. *Osteoporos Int*. 2008;19(10):1431-1444. Medline:18324342 doi:10.1007/s00198-008-0588-0
23. Nguyen ND, Frost SA, Center JR, Eisman JA, Nguyen TV. Development of a nomogram for individualizing hip fracture risk in men and women. *Osteoporos Int*. 2007;18(8):1109-1117. Medline:17370100 doi:10.1007/s00198-007-0362-8

24. FRAX® Fracture Risk Assessment Tool. Charts to download. Accessed November 18, 2024. https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/FRAX/charts.aspx
25. Fuggle NR, Curtis EM, Ward KA, Harvey NC, Dennison EM, Cooper C. Fracture prediction, imaging and screening in osteoporosis. *Nat Rev Endocrinol.* 2019;15(9):535-547. Medline:31189982 doi:10.1038/s41574-019-0220-8
26. Kanis JA, Harvey NC, Johansson H, Odén A, Leslie WD, McCloskey EV. FRAX update. *J Clin Densitom.* 2017;20(3):360-367. Medline:28732576 doi:10.1016/j.jocd.2017.06.022
27. Kanis JA, McCloskey E, Johansson H, Odén A, Leslie WD. FRAX® with and without bone mineral density. *Calcif Tissue Int.* 2012;90(1):1-13. Medline:22057815 doi:10.1007/s00223-011-9544-7
28. Dawson-Hughes B, Tosteson AN, Melton LJ III, et al; National Osteoporosis Foundation Guide Committee. Implications of absolute fracture risk assessment for osteoporosis practice guidelines in the USA. *Osteoporos Int.* 2008;19(4):449-458.| Medline:18292975 doi:10.1007/s00198-008-0559-5
29. Vyas DA, Eisenstein LG, Jones DS. Hidden in plain sight—reconsidering the use of race correction in clinical algorithms. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;383(9):874-882. Medline:32853499 doi:10.1056/NEJMms2004740
30. Lewiecki EM, Erb SF. Racial disparities and inequalities in the management of patients with osteoporosis. *Orthop Nurs.* 2022;41(2):125-134. Medline:35358132 doi:10.1097/NOR.0000000000000832
31. LeBoff MS, Greenspan SL, Insogna KL, et al. The clinician's guide to prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. *Osteoporos Int.* 2022;33(10):2049-2102. Medline:35478046 doi:10.1007/s00198-021-05900-y
32. Reid HW, Selvan B, Batch BC, Lee RH. The break in FRAX: equity concerns in estimating fracture risk in racial and ethnic minorities. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2021;69(9):2692-2695. Medline:34124772 doi:10.1111/jgs.17316
33. Chen SJ, Chen YJ, Cheng CH, Hwang HF, Chen CY, Lin MR. Comparisons of different screening tools for identifying fracture/osteoporosis risk among community-dwelling older people. *Medicine (Baltimore).* 2016;95(20):e3415. Medline:27196447 doi:10.1097/MD.0000000000003415
34. Koh LK, Sedrine WB, Torralba TP, et al; Osteoporosis Self-Assessment Tool for Asians (OSTA) Research Group. A simple tool to identify Asian women at increased risk of osteoporosis. *Osteoporosis Int.* 2001;12(8):699-705. Medline:11580084 doi:10.1007/s001980170070
35. Cadarette SM, Jaglal SB, Kreiger N, McIsaac WJ, Darlington GA, Tu JV. Development and validation of the Osteoporosis Risk Assessment Instrument to facilitate selection of women for bone densitometry. *CMAJ.* 2000;162(9):1289-1294. Medline:10813010
36. Gourlay ML, Fine JP, Preisser JS, et al; Study of Osteoporotic Fractures Research Group. Bone-density testing interval and transition to osteoporosis in older women. *N Engl J Med.* 2012;366(3):225-233. Medline:22256806 doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1107142
37. Kanis JA, Cooper C, Dawson-Hughes B, et al; International Osteoporosis Foundation. FRAX and ethnicity. *Osteoporos Int.* 2020;31(11):2063-2067. Medline:32888046 doi:10.1007/s00198-020-05631-6
38. Lewiecki EM, Wright NC, Singer AJ. Racial disparities, FRAX, and the care of patients with osteoporosis. *Osteoporos Int.* 2020;31(11):2069-2071. Medline:32980922 doi:10.1007/s00198-020-05655-y
39. Lewiecki EM, Chastek B, Sundquist K, et al. Osteoporotic fracture trends in a population of US managed care enrollees from 2007 to 2017. *Osteoporos Int.* 2020;31(7):1299-1304.| Medline:32062687 doi:10.1007/s00198-020-05334-y
40. Bliuc D, Nguyen ND, Milch VE, Nguyen TV, Eisman JA, Center JR. Mortality risk associated with low-trauma osteoporotic fracture and subsequent fracture in men and women. *JAMA.* 2009;301(5):513-521. Medline:19190316 doi:10.1001/jama.2009.50
41. Kannegaard PN, van der Mark S, Eiken P, Abrahamsen B. Excess mortality in men compared with women following a hip fracture. National analysis of comedications, comorbidity and survival. *Age Ageing.* 2010;39(2):203-209. Medline:20075035 doi:10.1093/ageing/afp221
42. Drake MT, Murad MH, Mauck KF, et al. Clinical review. Rrisk factors for low bone mass-related fractures in men: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2012;97(6):1861-1870. Medline:22466344 doi:10.1210/jc.2011-3058
43. Nicholson WK, Silverstein M, Wong JB, et al; US Preventive Services Task Force. Interventions to prevent falls in community-dwelling older adults: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA.* 2024;332(1):51-57. Medline:38833246 doi:10.1001/jama.2024.8481
44. Grossman DC, Curry SJ, Owens DK, et al; US Preventive Services Task Force. Vitamin D, calcium, or combined supplementation for the primary prevention of fractures in community-dwelling adults: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA.* 2018;319(15):1592-1599. Medline:29677309 doi:10.1001/jama.2018.3185
45. Curry SJ, Krist AH, Owens DK, et al; US Preventive Services Task Force. Screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA.* 2018;319(24):2521-2531. Medline:29946735 doi:10.1001/jama.2018.7498
46. Kahwati LC, Kistler CE, Booth G, et al. Screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures: a systematic review for the US Preventive Services Task Force. *JAMA.* Published January 14, 2025. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.21653
47. Stewart A, Kumar V, Reid DM. Long-term fracture prediction by DXA and QUS: a 10-year prospective study. *J Bone Miner Res.* 2006;21(3):413-418. Medline:16491289 doi:10.1359/JBMR.051205
48. Gourlay ML, Ritter VS, Fine JP, et al; Osteoporotic Fractures in Men (MrOS) Study Group. Comparison of fracture risk

assessment tools in older men without prior hip or spine fracture: the MrOS study. *Arch Osteoporos*. 2017;12(1):91. Medline:29052793 doi:10.1007/s11657-017-0389-1
49. Marques A, Ferreira RJ, Santos E, Loza E, Carmona L, da Silva JA. The accuracy of osteoporotic fracture risk prediction tools: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2015;74(11):1958-1967. Medline:26248637 doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2015-207907
50. Sun X, Chen Y, Gao Y, et al. Prediction models for osteoporotic fractures risk: a systematic review and critical appraisal. *Aging Dis*. 2022;13(4):1215-1238. Medline:35855348 doi:10.14336/AD.2021.1206
51. Adami G, Biffi A, Porcu G, et al. A systematic review on the performance of fracture risk assessment tools: FRAX, DeFRA, FRA-HS. *J Endocrinol Invest*. 2023;46(11):2287-2297. Medline:37031450 doi:10.1007/s40618-023-02082-8
52. Crandall CJ, Larson JC, Watts NB, et al. Comparison of fracture risk prediction by the US Preventive Services Task Force strategy and two alternative strategies in women 50-64 years old in the Women's Health Initiative. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2014;99(12):4514-4522. Medline:25322268 doi:10.1210/jc.2014-2332
53. Crandall CJ, Larson J, LaCroix A, et al. Predicting fracture risk in younger postmenopausal women: comparison of the Garvan and FRAX risk calculators in the Women's Health Initiative Study. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2019;34(2):235-242. Medline:30334182 doi:10.1007/s11606-018-4696-z
54. Crandall CJ, Larson JC, Schousboe JT, et al. Race and ethnicity and fracture prediction among younger postmenopausal women in the Women's Health Initiative Study. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2023;183(7):696-704. Medline:37213092 doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.1253
55. Shepstone L, Lenaghan E, Cooper C, et al; SCOOP Study Team. Screening in the community to reduce fractures in older women (SCOOP): a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2018;391(10122):741-747. Medline:29254858 doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32640-5
56. Rubin KH, Rothmann MJ, Holmberg T, et al. Effectiveness of a two-step population-based osteoporosis screening program using FRAX: the randomized Risk-stratified Osteoporosis Strategy Evaluation (ROSE) study. *Osteoporos Int*. 2018;29(3):567-578. Medline:29218381 doi:10.1007/s00198-017-4326-3
57. Merlijn T, Swart KM, van Schoor NM, et al. The effect of a screening and treatment program for the prevention of fractures in older women: a randomized pragmatic trial. *J Bone Miner Res*. 2019;34(11):1993-2000. Medline:31220365 doi:10.1002/jbmr.3815
58. Boonen S, Reginster JY, Kaufman JM, et al. Fracture risk and zoledronic acid therapy in men with osteoporosis. *N Engl J Med*. 2012;367(18):1714-1723. Medline:23113482 doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1204061
59. Cummings SR, San Martin J, McClung MR, et al; FREEDOM Trial. Denosumab for prevention of fractures in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis. *N Engl J Med*. 2009;361(8):756-765. Medline:19671655 doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0809493
60. Orwoll E, Teglbjærg CS, Langdahl BL, et al. A randomized, placebo-controlled study of the effects of denosumab for the treatment of men with low bone mineral density. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2012;97(9):3161-3169. Medline:22723310 doi:10.1210/jc.2012-1569
61. Grey A, Bolland M, Wong S, Horne A, Gamble G, Reid IR. Low-dose zoledronate in osteopenic postmenopausal women: a randomized controlled trial. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2012;97(1):286-292. Medline:22072741 doi:10.1210/jc.2011-2081
62. Rubin KH, Möller S, Choudhury A, et al. Cardiovascular and skeletal safety of zoledronic acid in osteoporosis observational, matched cohort study using Danish and Swedish health registries. *Bone*. 2020;134:115296. Medline:32097760 doi:10.1016/j.bone.2020.115296
63. Lee YK, Byun DW, Jung SM, et al. Bisphosphonates use and risk of subtrochanteric and diaphyseal femur fractures in Korea: results from the National Claim Registry. *Calcif Tissue Int*. 2019;104(3):313-319. Medline:30446771 doi:10.1007/s00223-018-0493-2
64. Anastasilakis AD, Pepe J, Napoli N, et al. Osteonecrosis of the jaw and antiresorptive agents in benign and malignant diseases: a critical review organized by the ECTS. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2022;107(5):1441-1460. Medline:34922381 doi:10.1210/clinem/dgab888
65. Thériault G, Limburg H, Klarenbach S, et al; Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care. Recommendations on screening for primary prevention of fragility fractures. *CMAJ*. 2023;195(18):e639-e649. Medline:37156553 doi:10.1503/cmaj.221219
66. Camacho PM, Petak SM, Binkley N, et al. American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists/American College of Endocrinology clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis—2020 update. *Endocr Pract*. 2020;26(Suppl 1):1-46. Medline:32427503 doi:10.4158/GL-2020-0524SUPPL
67. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Osteoporosis prevention, screening, and diagnosis: ACOG Clinical Practice Guideline No. 1. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2021;138(3):494-506. Medline:34412075 doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000004514
68. American Academy of Family Physicians. Osteoporosis Screening to Prevent Fractures. Accessed November 18, 2024. https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/clinical-recommendations/all-clinical-recommendations/osteoporosis.html
69. American Academy of Family Physicians. Choosing Wisely: DEXA for Osteoporosis. Accessed November 18, 2024. https://www.aafp.org/family-physician/patient-care/clinical-recommendations/all-clinical-recommendations/cw-osteoporosis.html

Table 1. Summary of USPSTF Rationale

Rationale	Assessment
Detection	• The USPSTF found adequate evidence that centrally measured DXA BMD can accurately predict osteoporotic fractures in women. • The USPSTF found adequate evidence that clinical risk assessment tools have sufficient accuracy to identify osteoporosis in women and predict certain osteoporotic fractures, particularly hip fractures, in women and men.
Benefits of early detection and intervention and treatment	• The USPSTF found adequate direct evidence that screening for fracture risk in women 65 years or older provides a moderate benefit in preventing fractures. • The USPSTF found convincing evidence that treatment of women 65 years or older with osteoporosis provides a moderate benefit in preventing fractures. • For postmenopausal women younger than 65 years with risk factors for osteoporosis, the USPSTF found adequate evidence that screening can detect osteoporosis and fracture risk and convincing evidence that treatment provides a moderate benefit in preventing fractures. • The USPSTF found inadequate evidence on the benefits of screening for and treatment of osteoporosis to reduce the risk of osteoporotic fractures in men.
Harms of early detection and intervention and treatment	• Based on the nature of screening and the low likelihood of serious harms, the USPSTF found adequate evidence to bound the harms of screening for osteoporosis as no greater than small. • The USPSTF found adequate evidence that the harms of treatment of osteoporosis are small in women. • The USPSTF found inadequate evidence on the harms of screening for or treatment of osteoporosis to prevent fractures in men.
USPSTF assessment	• The USPSTF concludes with moderate certainty that screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in women 65 years or older has moderate net benefit. • The USPSTF concludes with moderate certainty that screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women younger than 65 years at increased risk has moderate net benefit. • Due to a lack of available data, the USPSTF concludes that the evidence is insufficient, and the balance of benefits and harms for screening for osteoporosis to prevent osteoporotic fractures in men cannot be determined.

Abbreviations: BMD, bone mineral density; DXA, dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry; USPSTF, US Preventive Services Task Force.

Table 2. Characteristics of Selected Risk Assessment Tools for Osteoporosis or Fracture Risk

[a]

Risk Factors	Scoring
OST (<2 frequently used as threshold to define increased osteoporosis risk)	
Weight, kg	(kg − y) × 0.2
Age, y	
ORAI (≥9 frequently used as threshold to define increased osteoporosis risk)	

Age, y	
≥75	15
65-74	9
55-64	5
45-54	0
Weight, kg	
<60	9
60-69	3
≥70	0
No current estrogen use	2
FRAX (no specific threshold to define increased osteoporosis risk)[b]	
Age, y	Refer to website[c]
Weight, kg	
Current estrogen use	
Height, cm	
Previous fracture	
Parental hip fracture	
Current smoking	
Glucocorticoid use	
Rheumatoid arthritis	
Secondary osteoporosis	
Alcohol consumption ≥3 U/d	

Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; FRAX, Fracture Risk Assessment Tool; MOF, major osteoporotic fracture; OST, Osteoporosis Self-Assessment Tool; ORAI, Osteoporosis Risk Assessment Instrument.

[a] Table adapted from FRAX Fracture Risk Assessment Tool[24] and Chen et al.[33]

[b] FRAX was designed to predict fracture risk. For context only: A 65-year-old White female with a BMI of 25 and no risk factors has a 10-year risk of hip fracture of 1.3% and 10-year risk of MOF of 9.3%.

[c] Refer to website (https://frax.shef.ac.uk/FRAX/index.aspx).

Table 3. Research Needs and Gaps in Screening for Osteoporosis to Prevent Fractures

To fulfill its mission to improve health by making evidence-based recommendations for preventive services, the USPSTF routinely highlights the most critical evidence gaps for creating actionable preventive services recommendations. The USPSTF often needs additional evidence to create the strongest recommendations for everyone, especially those with the greatest burden of disease. In some cases, clinical preventive services have been well studied, but there are important evidence gaps that prevent the USPSTF from making recommendations for specific populations.

In this table, the USPSTF summarizes the gaps in the evidence for screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures that need to be addressed to advance the health of the nation. For additional information and detail on research needed to address these evidence gaps, see the Research Gaps Taxonomy table on the USPSTF website (https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/home/getfilebytoken/kHT3WGUaG2wTz2pF_ke7bn).

Screening for osteoporosis to prevent fractures
More research is needed on the benefits and harms of screening, and of different screening strategies. • Studies are needed on the benefits and harms of screening for osteoporosis or fracture risk to prevent osteoporotic fractures and related morbidity and mortality in men. • Research is needed on the benefits and harms of screening using BMD alone vs fracture risk assessment tools alone vs the combination of BMD and fracture risk assessment in postmenopausal women.
Research is needed to develop and validate new primary care–feasible risk assessment tools that accurately predict risk of hip and nonhip major osteoporotic fractures in women and men. This research should include populations broadly representative of the US population and sufficient numbers of postmenopausal women younger than 65 years and men to be able to report on accuracy in these groups.
Research is needed to develop and validate new primary care–feasible risk assessment tools that accurately identify osteoporosis in women and men. This research should include populations broadly representative of the US population and sufficient numbers of postmenopausal women younger than 65 years and men to be able to report on accuracy in these groups.
Decision analysis studies are needed to help inform the optimal start and stop ages and screening interval in women. (KQ2d, CQ1)
Research is needed on the benefits and harms of pharmacotherapy to prevent fractures in men with primary osteoporosis and without a history of fragility fractures. (KQ4)

Abbreviations: BMD, bone mineral density; CQ, contextual question; KQ, key question; USPSTF, US Preventive Services Task Force.