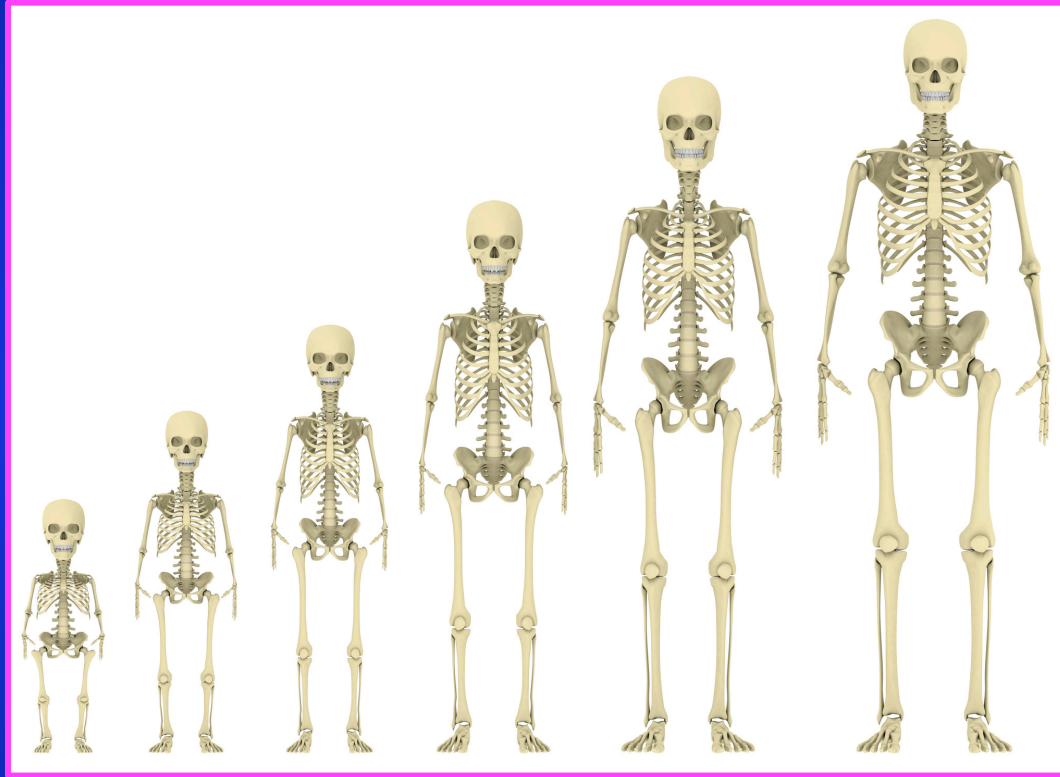


# Evaluation of Bone Mineral Density in Children



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Harvard Medical School

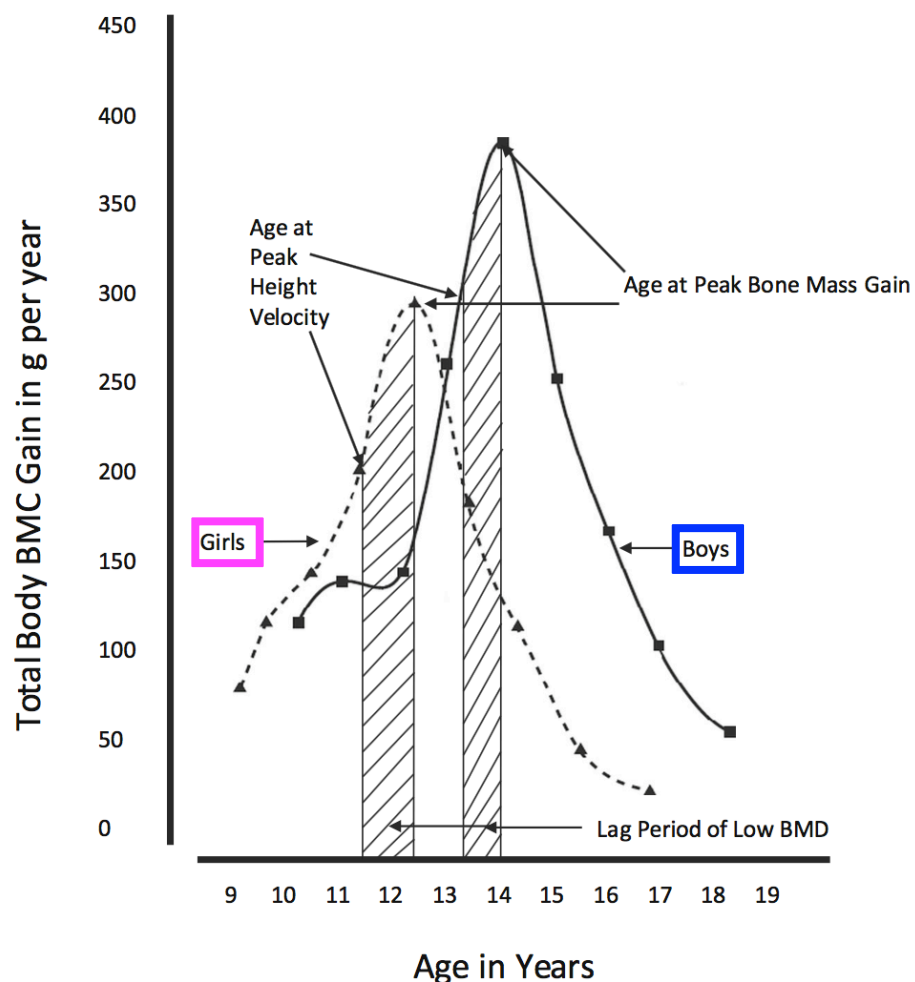


# **Disclosure: None**

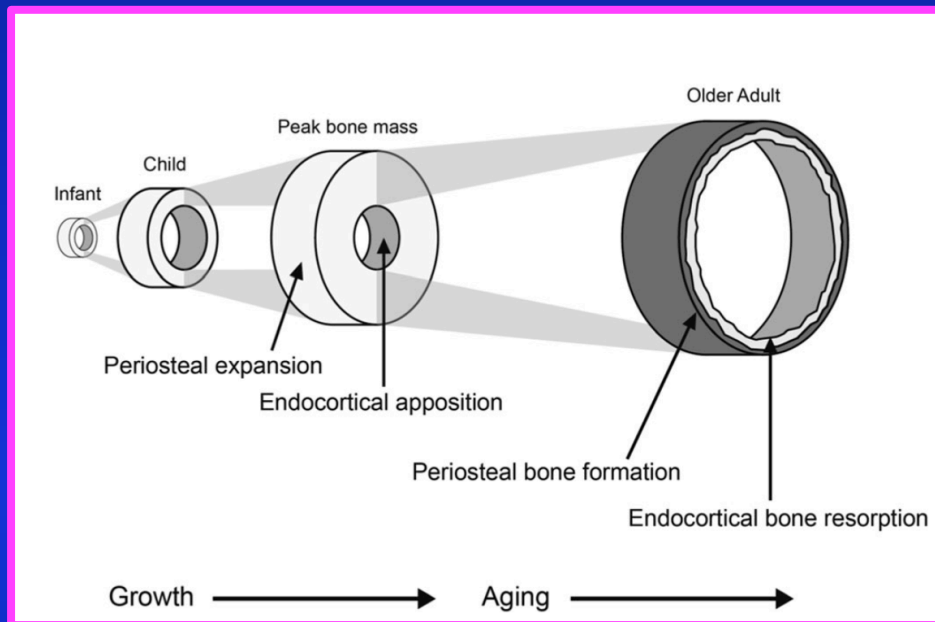
- **I have no relevant financial relationship with manufactures of any commercial products and/or providers of commercial services discussed in this CME activity**
- **I do not intend to discuss an unapproved/ investigative use of a commercial product/device in my presentation**

# Background

95% bone mass accrued by end of adolescence



Structure and composition change



- Chronic childhood diseases result in poor bone accrual or bone loss
- Identify children at risk of fractures
- Treatment and monitoring

# Demineralization Radiography

- **Qualitative: Visual and Morphology**
  - Cortical thinning
  - Altered trabecular pattern and geometry
  - Radiolucency of the bone
- **Genant's Semi-quantitative Assessment**
  - Decrease height of vertebral bodies
  - Vertebral endplate changes
- **Digital X-Ray Radiogrammetry (DXR)**
  - Metacarpal cortical thickness
- **Vertebral fracture assessment (VFA)**
  - Lateral spine image obtain during DXA

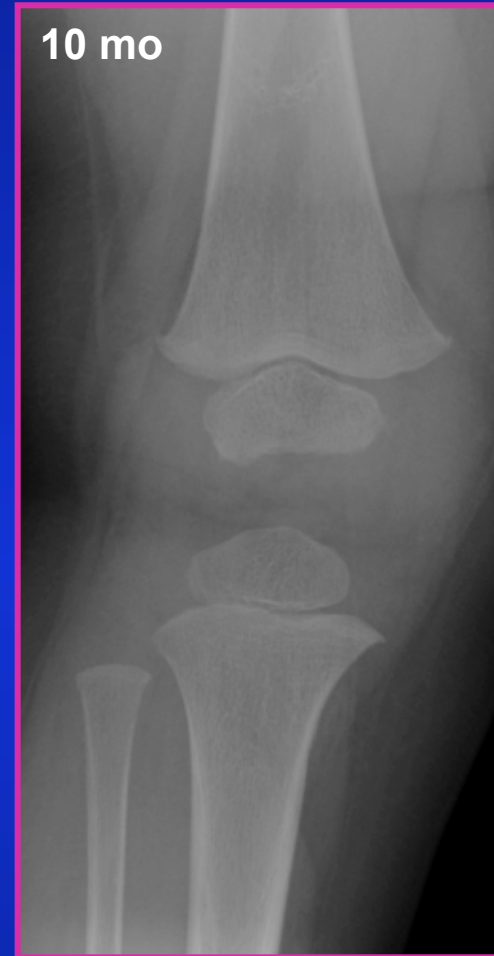


Neelis (2017) Clin Nutr. In press  
Renz (2014.) J Bone Miner Metab 34:55  
Nusman (2015) Eur J Radiol 84:1999  
Adiotomre (2017) Eur Radiol 27:2188



25 OHD = 7 ng/mL  
Thacher Score = 0  
Demineralization = ?

# Demineralization Intra-and Inter-Observer Agreement



Variability	% Agreement	Kappa	Interpretation
Inter-observer	12	0.25 (95% CI: 0.13-0.38)	Fair
Intra-observer (Pooled 3 readers)	66	0.29 (95% CI: 0.11-0.47)	Fair

- 360 healthy infants and toddlers (8-24 mo)
- 44 (12%) had Vit D deficiency (25 OHD < 20 ng/mL)
- Demineralization reported frequently: 'questionable' or mild
- Considerable inter- and intra-observer variability
- When demineralization present, Vit D levels lower (p=.02)

# ACR Appropriateness Criteria Osteoporosis and Bone Mineral Density

Variant 1. Asymptomatic BMD screening or individuals with established or clinically suspected low BMD.

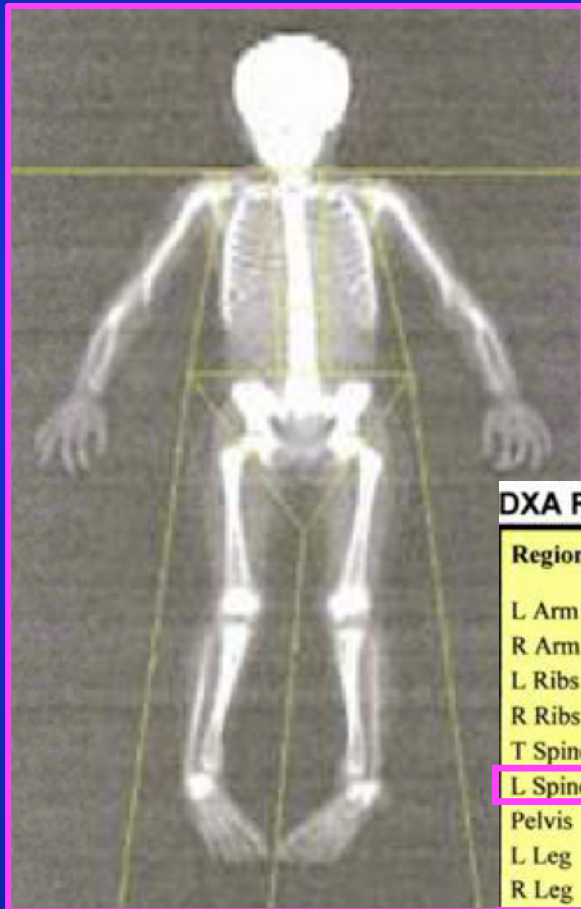
Radiologic Procedure	Rating	Comments	RRL
DXA lumbar spine and hip(s) <b>Total Body Less Head</b>	9		⊕
QCT lumbar spine and hip <b>Forearm, Femur, Tibia</b>	6		⊕⊕⊕
DXA distal forearm	5		⊕
TBS lumbar spine	4		⊕
QUS calcaneus	2		○
SXA distal forearm	2		⊕
pQCT distal forearm	2		⊕
X-ray axial skeleton	1		Varies
X-ray appendicular skeleton	1		⊕⊕

Note: Rating Scale 1,2,3 = usually not appropriate; 4,5,6 = may be appropriate; 7,8,9 = usually appropriate. DXA = dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry; pQCT = peripheral QCT; QCT = quantitative CT; QUS = peripheral ultrasound; RRL = relative radiation level; SXA = single x-ray absorptiometry; TBS = trabecular bone score.

# Difference between DXA and QCT

DXA: 2-Dimensional

areal  $BMD = g/cm^2$



**DXA Results Summary:**

Region	Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	BMC (g)	BMD (g/cm <sup>2</sup> )
L Arm	110.53	45.84	0.415
R Arm	116.00	48.11	0.415
L Ribs	56.24	27.28	0.485
R Ribs	53.51	25.54	0.477
T Spine	65.61	51.73	0.788
L Spine	31.25	27.72	0.887
Pelvis	123.42	112.74	0.914
L Leg	209.34	120.03	0.573
R Leg	212.47	125.19	0.589
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>978.36</b>	<b>584.18</b>	<b>0.597</b>
Head	180.83	219.49	1.214
<b>Total</b>	<b>1159.19</b>	<b>803.67</b>	<b>0.693</b>

QCT: 3-Dimensional

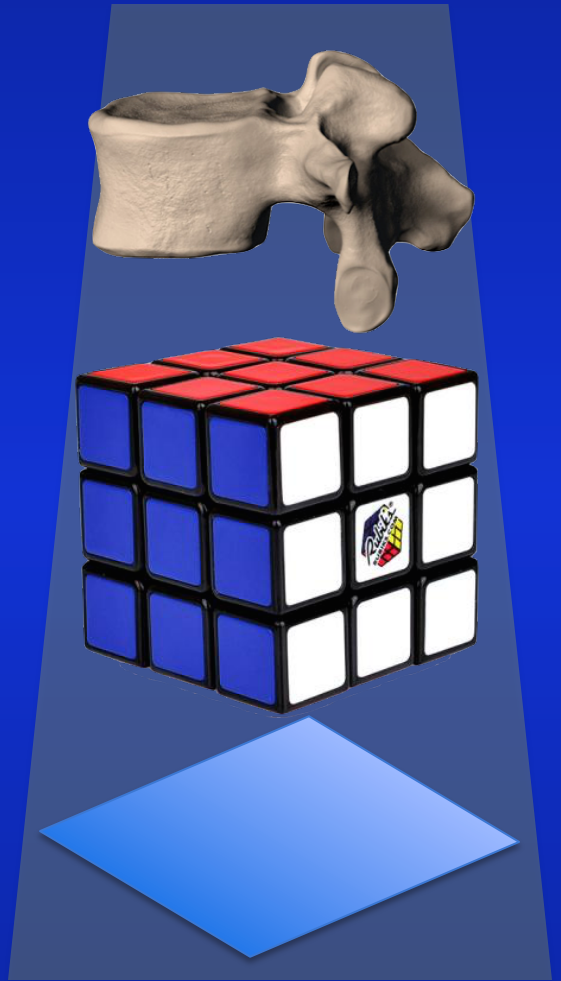
Volumetric  $BMD = g/cm^3$

Vertebra Analyzed:	L1
Volume (cm <sup>3</sup> ):	1.65
area (cm <sup>2</sup> ):	1.84
width (cm):	1.96
height (cm):	1.20
depth (cm):	0.90
kVp:	120
SFOV:	500 mm
FUC:	1.055
Table Height:	180.00



16	Mineral weight (g)	54
<b>QCT</b>		
8	Volume (cm <sup>3</sup> )	27
2	vBMD (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	2

<b>DXA</b>		
4	Projected Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	9
4	aBMD (g/cm <sup>2</sup> )	6



# Bone density measurement affected by...



**Gender, ethnicity, body composition, pubertal status, skeletal maturity, disease**

# Pediatric Guidelines

2013 Pediatric Position Development Conference

J Clin Densitom 2014;17:225

## Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry Interpretation and Reporting in Children and Adolescents: The Revised 2013 ISCD Pediatric Official Positions

*Nicola J. Crabtree,<sup>\*1,a</sup> Asma Arabi,<sup>2,b</sup> Laura K. Bachrach,<sup>3,b</sup> Mary Fewtrell,<sup>4,b</sup> Ghada El-Hajj Fuleihan,<sup>2,b</sup> Heidi H. Kecs kemethy,<sup>5,b</sup> Maciej Jaworski,<sup>6,b</sup> and Catherine M. Gordon<sup>7,c</sup>*

2013 Pediatric Position Development Conference

J Clin Densitom 2014;17:258

## Quantitative Computer Tomography in Children and Adolescents: The 2013 ISCD Pediatric Official Positions

*Judith E. Adams,<sup>\*1,a</sup> Klaus Engelke,<sup>2,b</sup> Babette S. Zemel,<sup>3,b</sup> and Kate A. Ward<sup>4,b</sup>*

Pediatrics 2016;138(4):e20

American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

## Bone Densitometry in Children and Adolescents

Laura K. Bachrach, MD, Catherine M. Gordon, MD, MS, SECTION ON ENDOCRINOLOGY



## ACR–SPR–SSR PRACTICE PARAMETER FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF DUAL-ENERGY X-RAY ABSORPTIOMETRY (DXA)

<https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Practice-Parameters/dxa.pdf?la=en>



- Lumbar spine and total body less head (TBLH); lateral distal femur in selected cases
- Z-score BMD: compare to normal pediatric database age, sex and race. (Never use T-scores!)
- Z-scores  $< 2.0$  : “low bone mineral density for age”
- Bone mineral content (BMC)
- Adjustment for body size, height, pubertal status



Total Body Bone Area, Bone Mineral Content, and Bone Mineral Density for Individuals Aged 8 Years and Over: United States, 1999-2006

Vital and Health Statistics

Series 11, Number 253 August 2013

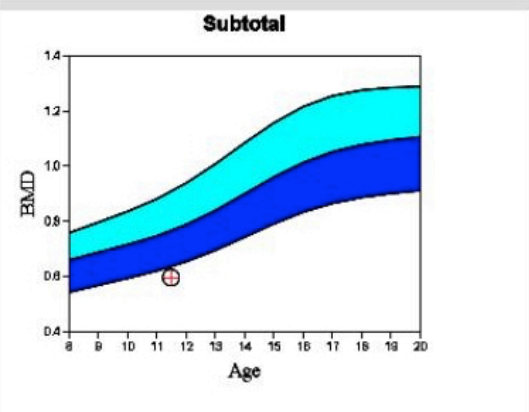
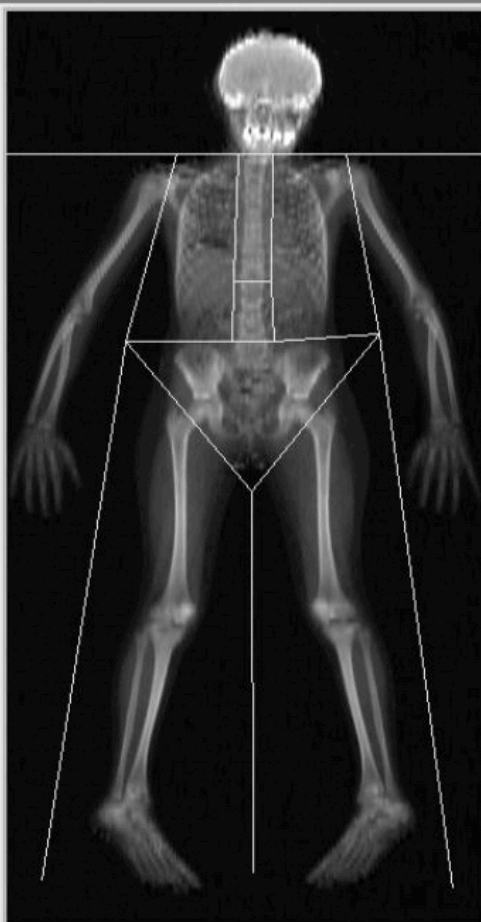
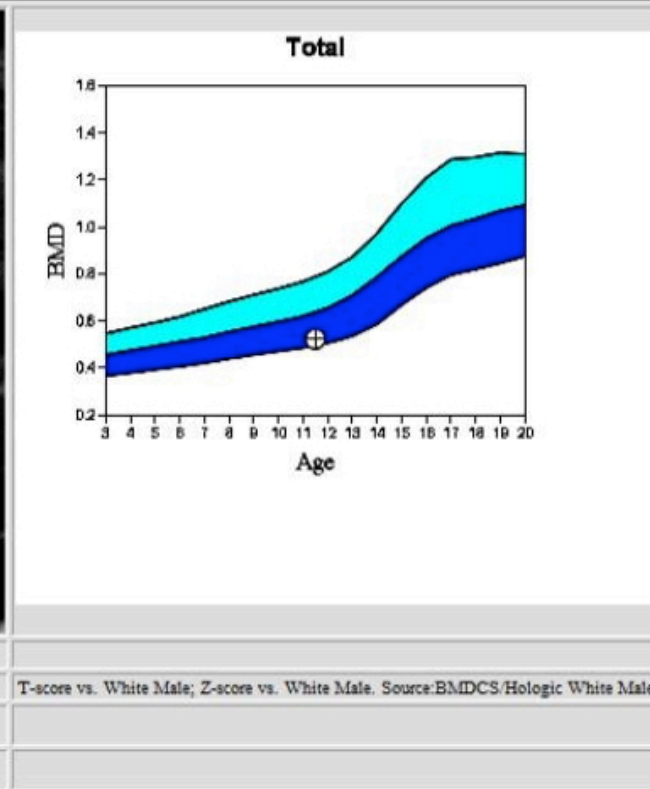
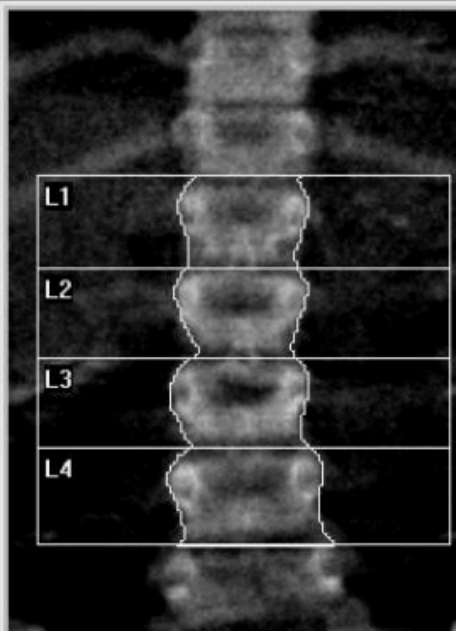


Image not for diagnostic use  
318 x 122  
k = 1.188, d0 = 48.8  
DAP: 17.7 cGy\*cm<sup>2</sup>

Region	Area [cm <sup>2</sup> ]	BMC [(g)]	BMD [g/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	Fat[(g)]	Lean [(g)]	Lean + BMC[(g)]	Total [(g)]	% Fat [(%)]	T-score	PR (Peak Reference)	Z-score	AM (Age Adjusted)
L Arm	104.66	51.36	0.491	599.3	976.9	1028.2	1627.5	36.8				
R Arm	118.67	59.60	0.502	627.0	1143.5	1203.1	1830.1	34.3				
L Ribs	93.38	44.23	0.474									
R Ribs	82.48	39.66	0.481									
T Spine	68.48	37.32	0.545									
L Spine	30.74	18.77	0.611									
Pelvis	131.89	90.24	0.684									
Trunk		230		4343.4	9816.4	10046.6	14390.0	30.2				
L Leg	233.05	152.65	0.655	2744.7	2957.6	3110.3	5855.0	46.9				
R Leg	244.72	165.51	0.676	2816.5	3098.6	3264.1	6080.7	46.3				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1108.06</b>	<b>659.33</b>	<b>0.595</b>	<b>11130.9</b>	<b>17993.0</b>	<b>18652.3</b>	<b>29783.2</b>	<b>37.4</b>			<b>-2.6</b>	<b>78</b>
Head	228.77	330.09	1.443	902.0	2734.7	3064.8	3966.8	22.7				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1336.83</b>	<b>989.41</b>	<b>0.740</b>	<b>12032.9</b>	<b>20727.7</b>	<b>21717.2</b>	<b>33750.1</b>	<b>35.7</b>			<b>-2.1</b>	<b>85</b>

**Total Body Less Head (TBLH)**

Total BMD CV 1.0%, ACF = 1.026, BCF = 1.004  
TBAR1904 - NHANES BCA calibration



**Results Summary:**

Region	Area[cm <sup>2</sup> ]	BMC[(g)]	BMD[g/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	T-score	PR (Peak Reference)	Z-score	ZM (Age Matched)
L1	8.64	3.80	0.440				
L2	8.25	4.34	0.526				
L3	9.00	5.19	0.577				
L4	11.48	6.19	0.539				
<b>Total</b>	<b>37.37</b>	<b>19.52</b>	<b>0.522</b>			<b>-1.6</b>	<b>82</b>

Total BMD CV 1.0%, ACF = 1.026, BCF = 1.004, TH = 5.382

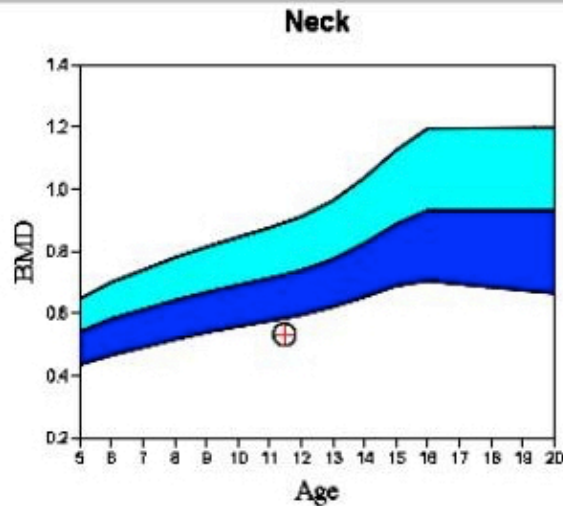
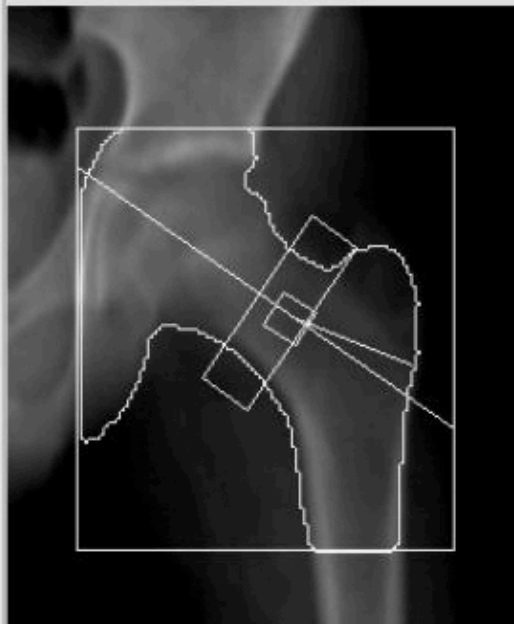


Image not for diagnostic use

94 x 105

NECK: 49 x 15

k = 1.158, d0 = 50.3

DAP: 1.2 cGy\*cm<sup>2</sup>

### Results Summary:

Region	Area[cm <sup>2</sup> ]	BMC[(g)]					
Neck	4.41	2.34	0.531			-2.8	73
Total	24.27	15.40	0.634			-1.9	82

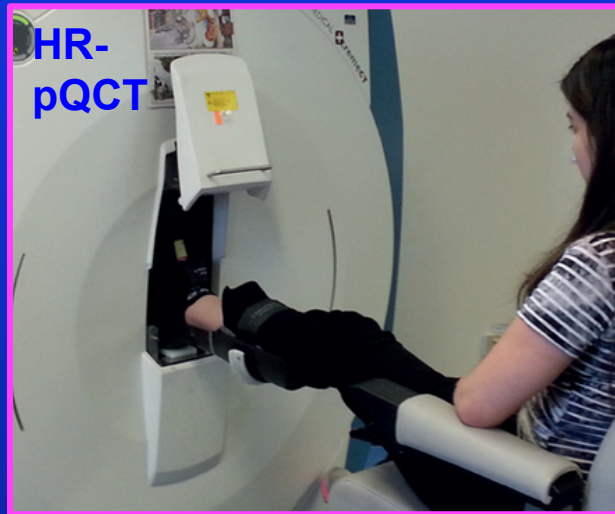
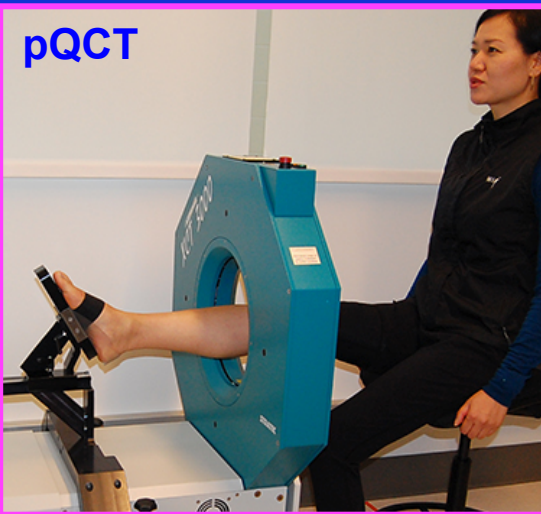
Total BMD CV 1.0%, ACF = 1.026, BCF = 1.004, TH = 4.305

**Not recommended**  
 Children trabecular pattern and landmarks not fully developed and measurements are difficult to replicated

## ACR–SPR–SSR PRACTICE PARAMETER FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF MUSCULOSKELETAL QUANTITATIVE COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (QCT)

<https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/Practice-Parameters/QCT.pdf>

- Z-scores  $< 2.0$  = “low bone mineral density”
- “Because QCT can assess both volume and density of bone in the axial and appendicular skeleton, it may be more useful than DXA in children”



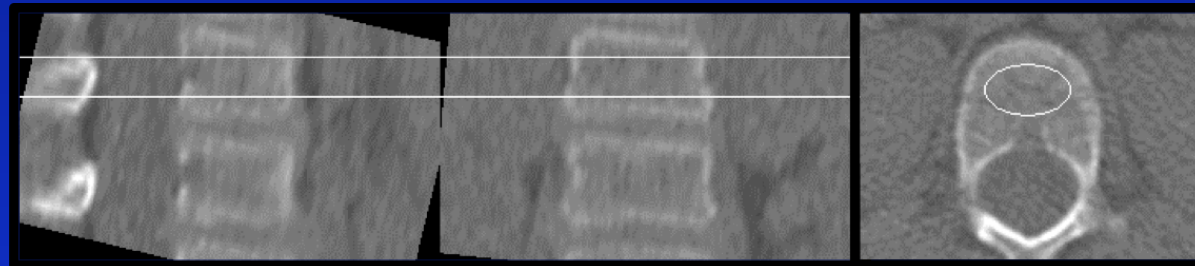
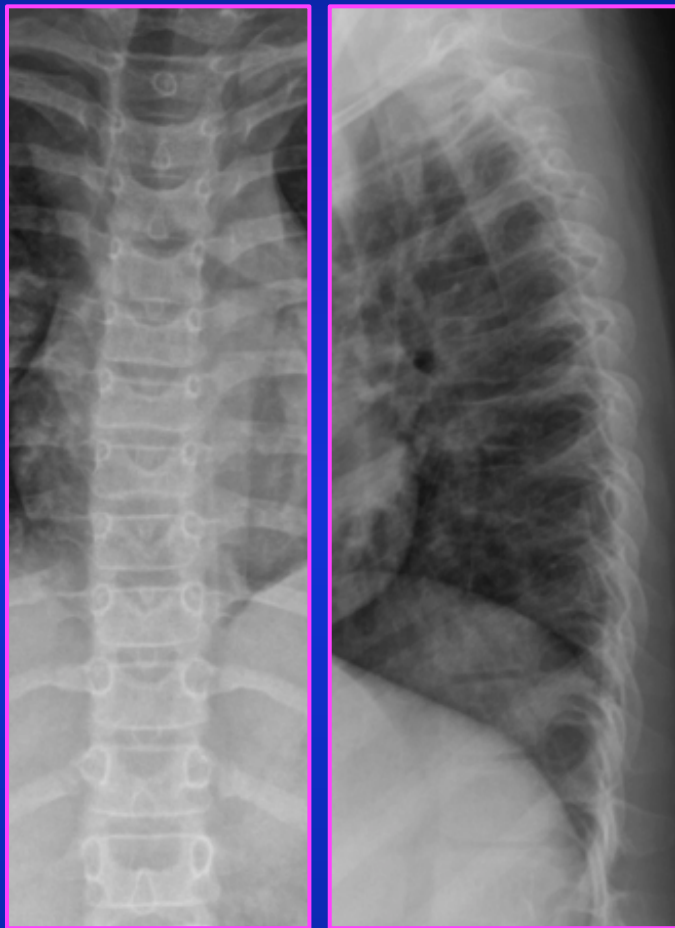
SPR

S. Kaste, MD, MS

J. Perez-Rossello, MD

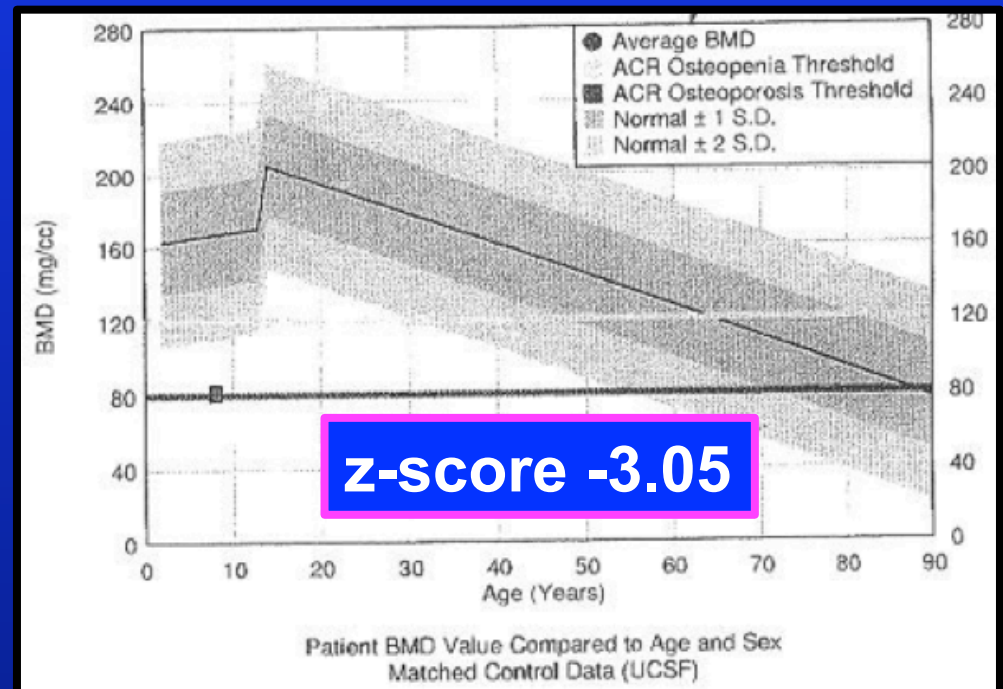


# QCT – Vertebral Trabecular Compartment



QCT at L1 an L2

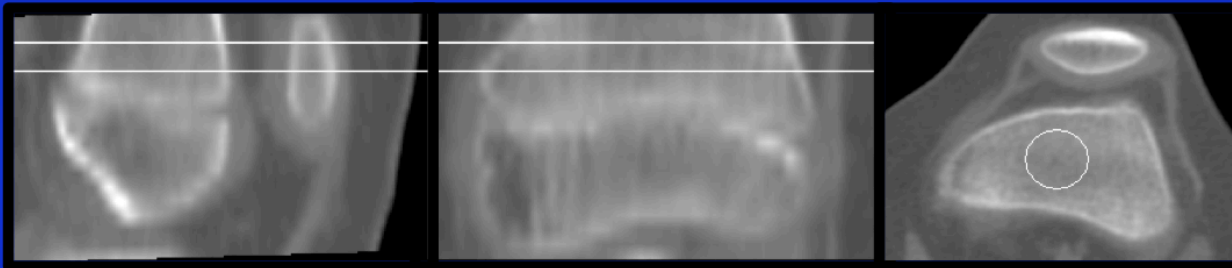
Average Trabecular BMD: 81.2 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>  
Age/sex matched normal UCSF: 166.7+/-28



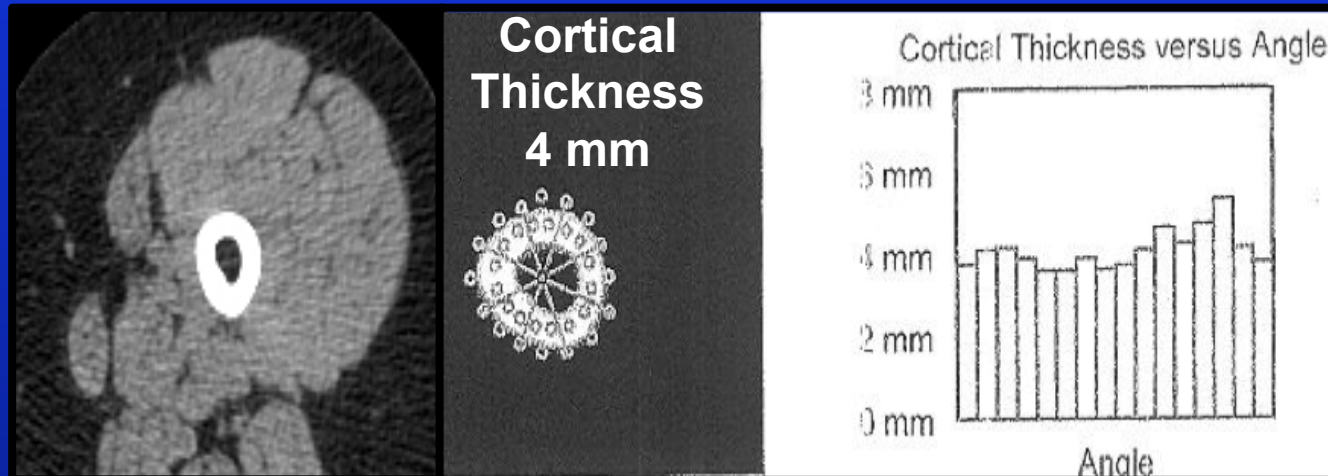
8 yo M slipped in ice  
multiple compression fractures  
“subjectively osteopenic”

# QCT - Trabecular and Cortical Compartments

- Relative lack of normative data for appendicular sites
  - Gilsanz: Femur cortical bone density
  - Leonard: Tibia cortical and trabecular bone density
- Measurements as baseline for longitudinal evaluation
- Mid and distal femur to identify early density changes



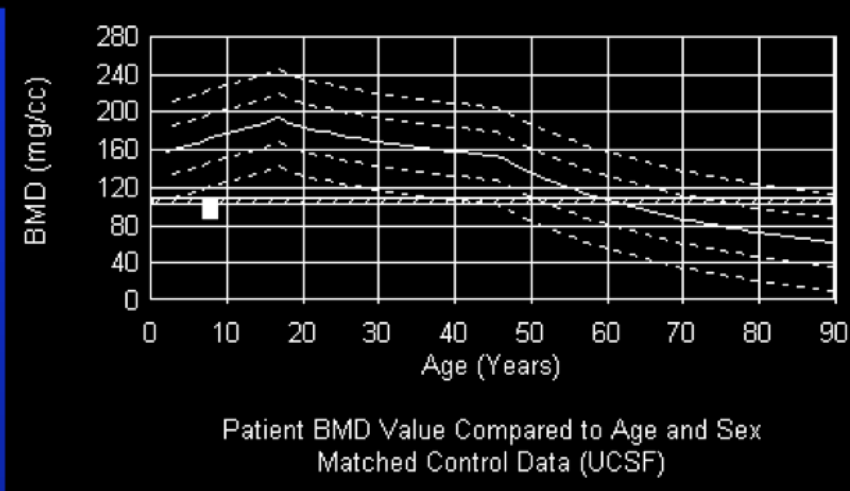
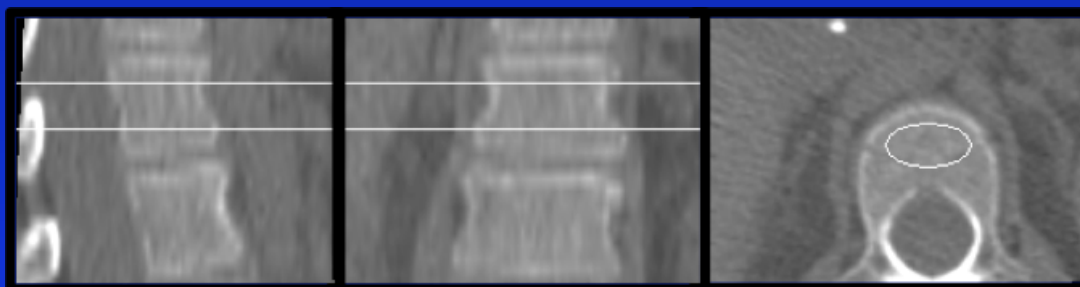
**Distal Femur Metaphysis  
Trabecular BMD  
120 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>**



**Mid Femur  
Cortical BMD  
978 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>**

# Children that would benefit from QCT

- Complex chronic diseases
- Disability and/or deformity
- Patients that may move
- Patients with hardware/tubes



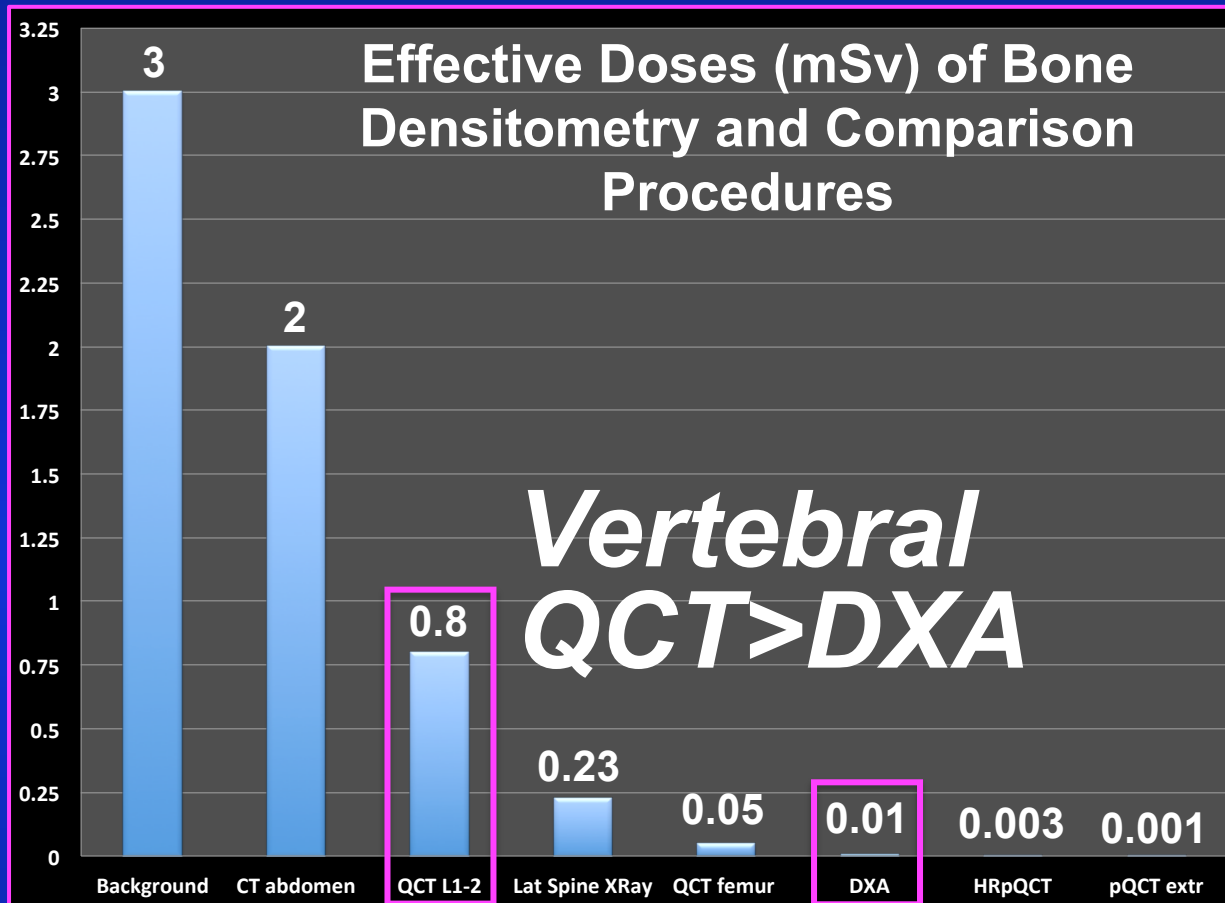
**QCT at L1 an L2**

**Average Trabecular BMD: 96.5 mg/cm<sup>3</sup>**

**Age/sex matched UCSF: 172.3; z-score -2.91**

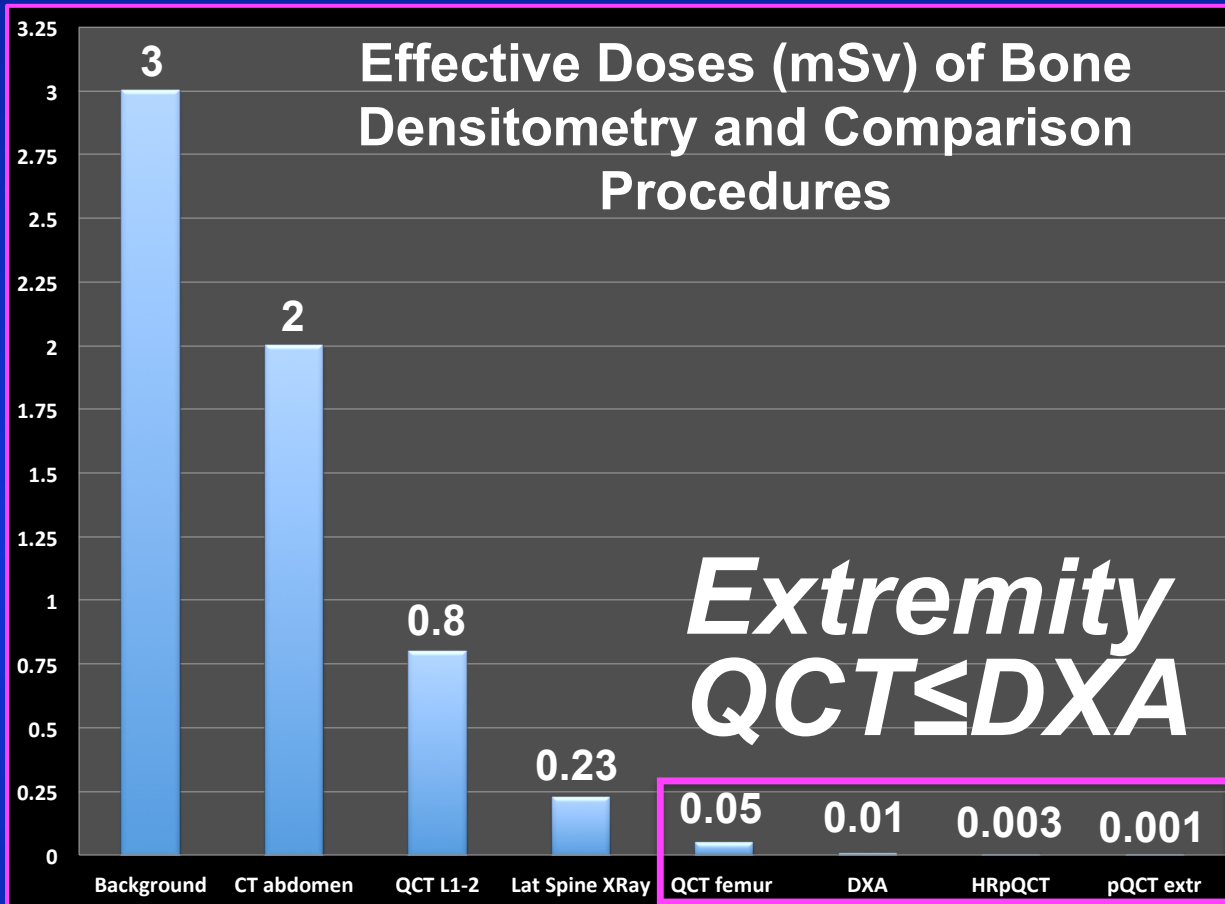


# Vertebral Bone Density



**QCT dose higher than DXA but in diseased children dose is acceptable**

# Extremity Bone Density



pQCT dose acceptable for obtaining normative data in the extremities of healthy subjects

# Dose (mSv) Dual-Energy QCT

Central QCT; Effective Dose Values (Calculated for a Helical 64-Detector Row Siemens Definition Flash Scanner Using the Pediatric Body Scan Mode Using 80 kV X-ray Tube Voltage and 100 mAs With a Slice Thickness of 0.6 mm and a Pitch of 1)

Age (yr)	Scan length (cm)	Sex	Effective dose (mSv)
15	10	M	0.59
		F	0.61
10	8	M	0.80
		F	0.84
5	6	M	1.02
		F	1.09

**Dual energy scanning may account for changes in fat composition of the trabecular compartment and give more accurate measurements**

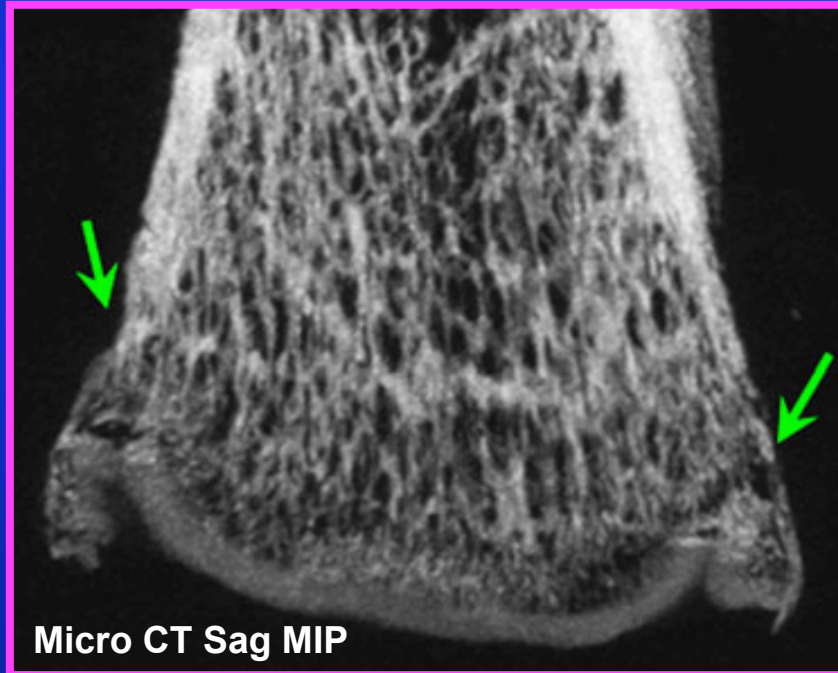
# Pediatric Challenges

- **Limitations of normative databases**
  - Model specific, software analysis variability
  - Ethnic normative data
- **Validation of 'correction' methods**
  - Height, bone age, Tanner stage
  - Body composition
- **Optimize protocols**
  - Identify measurement sites
  - Phantom vs asynchronous techniques

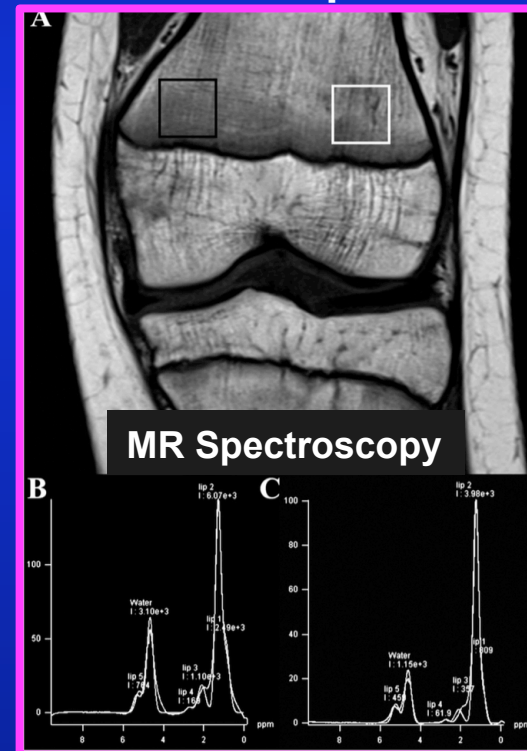
# Future Research – Fracture Risk

- Microarchitecture
- Marrow and body composition
- Biomechanical properties of bone (FEA)

Micro-architecture



Marrow composition



# Take Home Points

- **Wide variability in the assessment of demineralization with digital radiography**
  - The radiologist may be the first to identify “decrease bone density” or asymptomatic fractures
- **Optimal evaluation with quantitative techniques**
  - DXA
  - QCT (high resolution, dual energy techniques)

