

Osteoporosis screening and treatment fall short for women with hip fractures

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It's important to identify and treat osteoporosis following hip fracture, but a large study found low rates of assessment and treatment in postmenopausal women who had suffered a hip fracture.

Among 8,349 women age 50 years and older who experienced a hip fracture between 2008 and 2013, just 17% had evidence of osteoporosis assessment and/or treatment within 6 months and 23% had evidence of assessment and/or treatment within 12 months of their fractures. Seeing a primary care doctor after fracture was the strongest and most consistent predictor of osteoporosis assessment or treatment.

"Even though osteoporosis is a condition commonly known to impact so many older adults, patients and [healthcare providers](#) are not taking the steps necessary to diagnose and treat the condition in one of the highest-risk groups—women who have already experienced hip fractures," said Dr. Catherine Gillespie, lead author of the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research* study.

"This work shows that we can do more to minimize the burden of osteoporosis, thereby improving quality of life, among [older adults](#) who have experienced a [hip fracture](#)."

More information: Catherine W Gillespie et al, Osteoporosis-Related Health Services Utilization Following First Hip Fracture Among a Cohort of Privately-Insured Women in the United States, 2008-2014: An Observational Study, *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research* (2017).

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