

ACR: Strontium ranelate cuts progression of knee OA

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(HealthDay)—The osteoporosis therapeutic strontium ranelate (SrRan) reduces radiographic and radiological progression of knee osteoarthritis, according to a study presented at the annual meeting of the American College of Rheumatology, held from Nov. 10 to 14 in Washington, D.C.

Jean-Yves Reginster, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Liège in Belgium, and colleagues conducted a double-blind, placebo-controlled three-year study involving 1,371 patients (63 ± 7 years; 69 percent female) with symptomatic primary knee OA (Kellgren and Lawrence grade 2 or 3, joint space width [JSW] 3.5 ± 0.8 mm) who were randomized to receive SrRan (1 or 2 g/day) or placebo.

The researchers found that SrRan correlated with less progression of cartilage degradation and a significantly smaller decrease in JSW (-0.23 ± 0.56 mm with 1 g/day; -0.27 ± 0.63 mm with 2 g/day; and -0.37 ± 0.59 mm with placebo), with no difference between doses. SrRan at both doses also correlated with significantly less radiological and radioclinical progression. SrRan at the 2 g/day dose led to significant reductions in total Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index score, including the pain and physical function subscores and [knee pain](#). SrRan was well tolerated, with 17 percent of the patients in each group reporting a serious emergent adverse effect.

"Results of the present trial show also [SrRan's] ability to reduce the progression of osteoarthritis," Reginster said in a statement. "This could be a major step in the global management of musculo-skeletal disorders in the [elderly subjects](#)."

Several authors disclosed [financial ties](#) to pharmaceutical companies, including Servier Laboratories, the manufacturer of strontium ranelate.

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