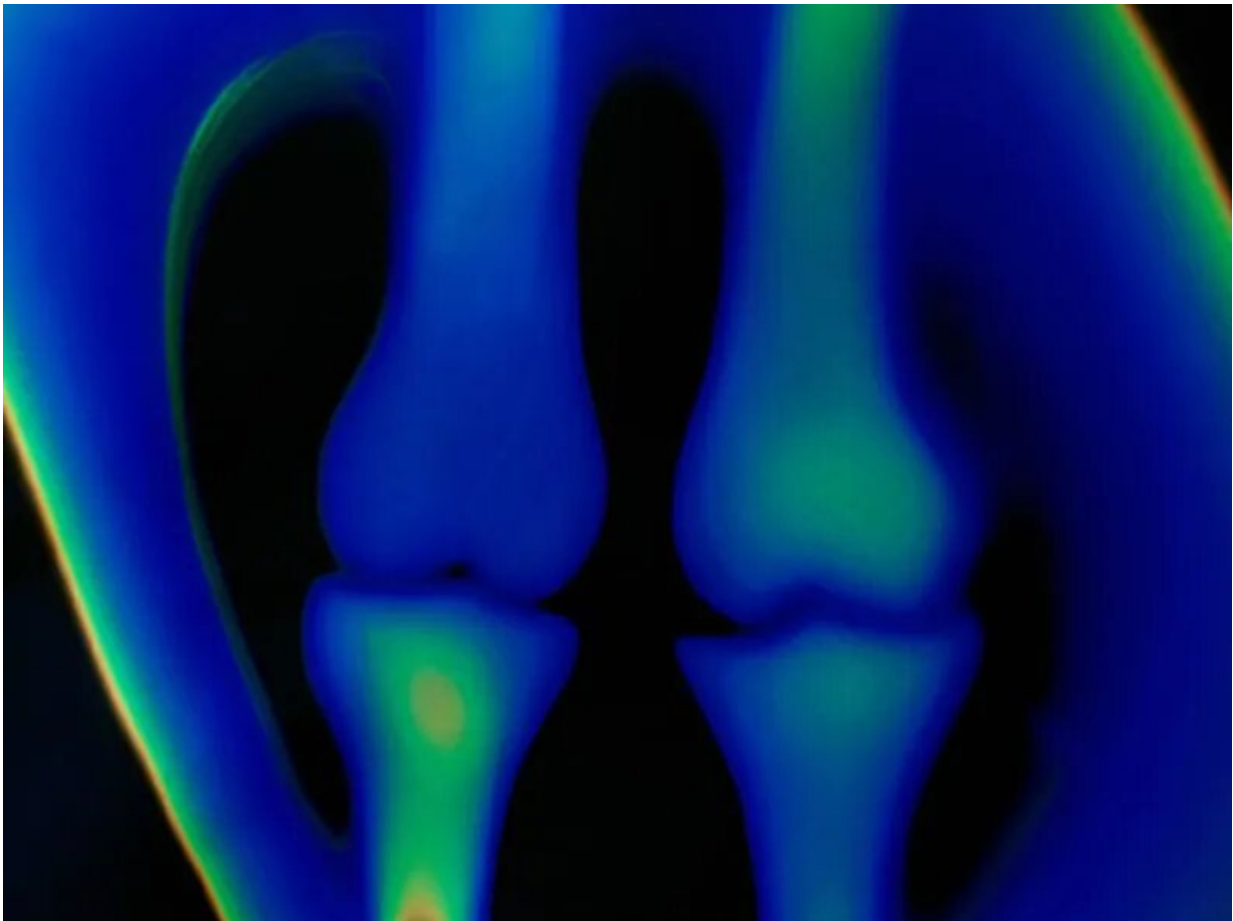


Osteoporosis undertreated in joint replacement patients

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(HealthDay)—Osteoporosis is common in patients undergoing total joint

arthroplasty (TJA), yet the condition is often undertreated, according to a study published in the July issue of the *Journal of Arthroplasty*.

James T. Bernatz, M.D., from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and colleagues retrospectively reviewed [medical records](#) of 200 consecutive adults (106 female and 94 male) aged 48 to 92 years who underwent elective TJA (100 total hip and 100 total knee) at a single tertiary-care center. Rates of preoperative osteoporosis screening and prevalence were evaluated.

The researchers found that 119 patients (59.5 percent) met criteria for dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) testing, but only 17.6 percent (21 patients) had DXA testing in the two years before surgery. One-third of patients meeting DXA testing criteria had osteoporosis by T-score. Using the National Osteoporosis Foundation criteria for pharmacologic osteoporosis treatment, 24.5 percent of patients (49 patients) qualified, but only 11 of these 49 patients received a prescription for pharmacotherapy within six months before or after surgery.

"This lack of preoperative [osteoporosis](#) screening and treatment may contribute to periprosthetic fracture risk," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the biomedical industry.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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