

# Controlling bone formation to prevent osteoporosis

27 September 2010

---

Aging disrupts the balance between bone formation and bone destruction, resulting in osteoporosis, which is characterized by reduced bone mass and increased risk of fracture. Recent data have suggested that this imbalance is a result of a decrease in formation of bone forming osteoblast cells from mesenchymal cells upon aging. Instead, these cells form more fat cells.

Insight into this age-related switch in cell type generation has now been provided by a team of researchers, led by Hiroshi Takayanagi, at Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Japan, working in mice. The data generated might provide new avenues of research for those developing approaches to treat age-related osteoporosis.

In the study, the gene regulatory protein Maf was found to promote mesenchymal cell generation of osteoblasts and suppress their generation of [fat cells](#). Consistent with this, mice lacking Maf showed delayed [bone formation](#). Furthermore, Maf levels were found to decrease in mouse mesenchymal cells upon aging and to be reduced by increased [oxidative stress](#), something that occurs upon aging. Both the authors and, in an accompanying commentary, Laurie McCauley, at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, believe these data could lead to new approaches to treat age-related osteoporosis.

**More information:** View this article at:

[www.jci.org/articles/view/4478 ...  
e9e9d82df06ab0518231](http://www.jci.org/articles/view/4478...e9e9d82df06ab0518231)

Provided by Journal of Clinical Investigation

APA citation: Controlling bone formation to prevent osteoporosis (2010, September 27) retrieved 24 June 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2010-09-bone-formation-osteoporosis.html>

*This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.*