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## V.V. Epanov, A.A. Epanova, O.N. Kolosova, A.P. Borisova

## MINERAL DENSITY OF BONE TISSUE OF THE AXIAL SKELETON IN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN WITH OVERWEIGHT

The study evaluated the relationship between obesity and mineral bone density (BMD) of the axial skeleton in postmenopausal period of women living in the conditions of Yakutia. It was revealed that the body mass index statistically significantly affects the mineral density of bone tissue, while the ratio of muscle tissue to adipose tissue is very important. The increased mineralization of the bone tissue of the axial skeleton in postmenopausal women directly depends on the degree of obesity.

Keywords: bone density, obesity, composite body composition.

Introduction. The postmenopausal period is characterized by a decrease in female sex hormones, leading to a change in metabolic processes in the body, which in further causes the occurrence of metabolic disorders and may become the basis of metabolic diseases, such as osteoporosis, obesity [3]. Both diseases can be present simultaneously in one patient, repeatedly enhancing its pathological effect, which is one of the reasons for the highlevel morbidity and mortality [8].

Osteoporosis (OD) refers to multifactorial metabolic diseases. a skeleton characterized by a decrease in bone mineral density (BMD) and violation of its microarchitectonics, causing deterioration of bone strength and high risk of fractures [5]. Currently, OP is one of the main reasons of disability, reduced quality of life and premature mortality of the elderly people [1]. The main risk factors and causes of metabolic disorders in the bone tissues are: a decrease in the level of sex hormones, female gender, insufficient body weight, fractures in parents, insufficient or excessive physical activity, the presence of concomitant diseases and the use of drugs that affect bone the cloth. Female gender is one of the risk factors for osteoporosis, since onset of menopause, they lose bone mass from 0.86 to 1.21% per year, unlikemales from 0.04 to 0.90% [5]. Adipose tissue consists of adipocytes, is a variety of connective tissue and performs heat-insulating in

the body, energy, endocrine function [4]. With obesity, excessive accumulation of subcutaneous and visceral fat. In the postmenopausal period, more than 50% of women begin to develop obesity or it progresses [7,9,22]. After menopause, as a result of decrease in female sex hormones becomes most noticeable accumulation of visceral fat (abdominal obesity). Also during this period 25-40% of women develop OP [9.27]. Adipose tissue performing endocrine function, may affect bone tissue alone or through adipokine production [9]. Using the dualenergy X-ray method absorptiometry has made it possible to selectively measure the amount of mineral, fat and lean mass and explore the relationship between body componentsin recent years [2].

Results of studies on the relationship between fat and bone fabrics are guite controversial. According to a number of studies, obesity can lead to an increase in bone mineral density (BMD) due to a higher level of estradiol and increased mechanical stress [10,11, 18,19, 24]. Other studies show that excess fat mass cannot protect a person from osteoporosis, and an increase in adipose tissue leads to a decrease in BMD, since an increase in visceral fat is associated with higher levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, which increase the activation of osteoclasts, which, in turn, in turn, leads to an increase in bone resorption and, consequently, to a decrease in BMD [13,14,16,17,25]. Premaor M. et al. In their study showed a significant increase in the risk of hip fracture in postmenopausal women with obesity [20]. Today there is growing evidence that with visceral obesity and metabolic syndrome, bone tissue becomes even more fragile, causing an increased risk of low-energy fractures [19]. The results of biochemical studies reveal lower rates of bone formation in obese women [11]. It is believed that increased body fat inhibits the formation of new collagen structures. With the discovery of bone marrow obesity, researchers focused on the role of adipocytes in the bone marrow and their effect on bone formation and the development of osteoporosis [8]. To date, the question of the effect of adipose tissue on bone mineral density remains ambiguous and requires further study.

The purpose of this study is to study the relationship between the degree of obesity and bone mineral density (BMD) in women in postmenopausal period living in Yakutia.

Materials and methods: In a oneshot observational study, a simple random sample involved 147 women in postmenopausal period living in Yakutsk with a body mass index (BMI)> 25, which corresponded to overweight (World Health Organization, 1997). The average age of the subjects was 61 ± 6.6 years, the period in menopause was 14 ± 6.8 years. All patients were divided into 4 groups by type of obesity: group I - pre-obesity (BMI  $= 27.39 \pm 1.3$ ; n = 64); Group II - obesity I Art. (BMI =  $32.21 \pm 1.5$ ; n = 52); Group III - obesity II tbsp. (BMI =  $36.71 \pm 1.2$ ; n = 24); Group IV - obesity III tbsp. (BMI = 43.67 ± 1.8; n=7). Research was carried out in compliance with ethical standards (opinion of the ethics committee, protocol No.7 of September 12, 2016). All subjects received voluntary written consent to participate in the survey. Exclusion

criteria were refusal to participate in the examination, all clinical manifestations of atherosclerosis, endocrine diseases accompanied by overweight, diseases that cause secondary osteoporosis, malignant diseases, taking drugs that affect bone and fat metabolism.

The examination was performed on a GE Lunar iDXA X-ray axial densitometer (USA). We had analyzed (AP Spine) BMD for L1-4 (g/cm2), (Dual Femur) femoral neck, evaluated the T-criterion (comparison with normal peak bone mass) and the total amount of minerals determine the composite composition of the body (the absolute and relative amount of fat, muscle and bone tissue), the program (Body Composition) was used.

To process the research data, we used the package of statistical processing of experimental data on MS Excel and the statistical program Stat Soft STATISTICA Automated Neural Networks 10 for Windows Ru. Verification of the laws of normal distribution was done using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov criterion. To identify the relationship between the studied parameters, a Pearson correlation analysis (r) was performed. Comparison of two independent groups in quantitative terms with a normal distribution of values was carried out using the modified Student criterion. Statistically significant results are recognized at p<0.05.

The results of the study. BMD in the lumbar vertebrae (segments L1-L4) in women with obesity in the postmenopausal period was higher than in women with obesity (Pic. 1). A direct correlation was obtained (r = 0.60) between BMD and body mass index (BMI). The highest BMD was found in women of group IV (p < 0.001)

The study of the composite composition of the body of women was carried out in all groups, where fat and muscle mass were separately considered (Pic.2). The results obtained indicate that with obesity of I and II degree, the ratio of adipose tissue to muscle, equal to 0.86, is the same as in women with obesity (group I). In group IV, with III degree obesity, the proportion of adipose tissue exceeds muscle tissue and their ratio becomes more than unity (1.04). A statistically significant decrease in muscle mass in group IV, compared with other

groups, is not an isolated process, but occurs with the simultaneous accumulation of fat mass (Pic. 2). The proportion of adipose tissue in total body weight in women with grade III obesity (group IV) was significantly higher than in women in all other groups (p<0.001).

In women with grade III obesity, significant statistically positive relationship was found between BMI, BMD of the lumbar spine and adipose tissue mass (r = 0.61), and a negative correlation between BMI and muscle mass (r = -0.57) (Pic.3).

Examination of women revealed asymmetry of the BMD in the left and right femoral neck (Pic. 4). BMD in the left femoral neck in all groups of examined

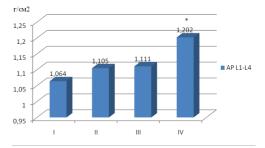


Fig. 1. Mineral bone density (BMD; g/cm 2) in the lumbar spine (segments L1-L4) in postmenopausal women in groups with different body mass index

significance of differences with group I - p < 0,0001; with group II - p = 0.0039; with group III - p < 0.042

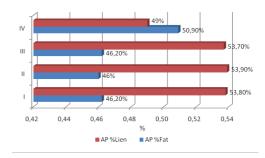


Fig. 2. The ratio of fat (Fat) and muscle mass (Lien) (%) depending on the degree of body mass index

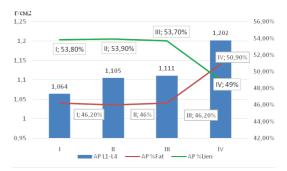
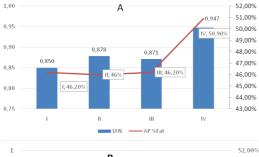
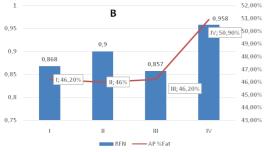


Fig. 3. The ratio of fat (Fat), muscle mass (Lien) (%) and bone mineral density (AR L1-L4) in the lumbar spine in





**Fig. 4.** Bone mineral density of the left (LFN; A), right (RFN; B) neck of the femur and% ratio of fat mass (Fat) in the lumbar spine of women in the postmenopausal period

obese women was higher than in group I (Pic. 4A). In group III, BMD of the right femoral neck was lower than in women with obesity (Pic. 4B).

Women with obesity from group II to group IV is detected an uneven growth in BMD. In group III, bone mineralization in the femoral neck both on the left (LFN) and on the right (RFN) was lower than in group II. When studying BMD in the area of the femoral neck in group IV, a direct statistically significant moderate relationship was found with the mass of adipose tissue (r = 0.449) (Pic. 4). With an increase in the body above 50% of the mass of adipose tissue, the BMD increases.

The discussion of the results. The study of the relationship between the degree of obesity and BMD in postmenopausal women living in the conditions of Yakutia is of particular interest due to the fact that people living in extreme climatic conditions of the North show a high level of psychoemotional stress, high morbidity and rapid progression of chronic non-infectious diseases, acceleration aging processes, the earlier onset of menopause and a reduction in life expectancy [5].

As a result of studying the relationship between BMI and BMD of the axial skeleton in women in the postmenopausal period living in Yakutia, a direct significant correlation between these indicators was revealed (r = 0.60). In the modern literature, information about the relationship between obesity and osteoporosis in women in the

postmenopausal period is quite contradictory [15,16,20-23,25]. This is probably due to the fact that the researchers did not divide the subjects into groups according to the degree of obesity and the results of the study depended on the proportion of individuals with varying degrees of obesity in the sample. Since BMI is associated with obesity, we tried analyze the relationship between BMD and the degree of obesity. The study of composite body composition in women with abdominal obesity of the first and second degree indicates that the ratio of muscle and adipose tissue does not significantly change in these groups. The highest BMD values were found in women with III degree of obesity (p<0.001), in whom an increase in the proportion of adipose tissue (more than 50%) with a decrease in the proportion of muscle tissue leads to an

increase in the mineral density of the spongy bone tissue of the axial skeleton (spine, femoral neck ), which can be considered as an adaptive protective reaction of the body.

Since ovaries no longer secrete estrogen in postmenopausal women, extragonadal synthesis of estrogen in adipose tissue becomes the dominant hormone, therefore, during this period, the role of adipocytes as estrogen producers can become quite important for bone metabolism [28]. It is possible that in women with III degree obesity, the revealed positive relationship between adipose tissue and BMD is associated with increased estrogen synthesis in adipose tissue, which may also be one of the potential mechanisms of the body's adaptive protective reaction.

**Conclusion.** The body mass index statistically significantly affects the mineral density of bone tissue, while the ratio of muscle tissue to adipose tissue is very important. The increased mineralization of the bone tissue of the axial skeleton in postmenopausal women directly depends on the degree of obesity.

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