EFORT/EULAR recommendations for prevention and management of osteoporotic fractures
Proposal to EULAR Executive Committee Meeting September 2008
From Tore K Kvien

Background

EULAR decided three years collaborate with EFORT in various activities. We have organized EULAR-EFORT symposia at their annual congresses for two years and EFFORT-EULAR symposia have been organized at the EULAR congresses in Barcelona and Paris. The main activity has been the elaboration of EULAR-EFORT recommendations for the management of the acute swollen knee (or more precisely EULAR /EFORT Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Initial Management of Patients with Acute or Recent Onset Swelling of the Knee”). This task force was co-convened by Désirée van der Heijde and Klaus-Peter Günter representing EULAR and EFFORT, respectively. The results were presented at the EULAR and EFFORT congresses last summer and the manuscript will be submitted in the near future.

The past presidents of EFORT (Wolfahrt Puhl) and EULAR (Tore K Kvien) have discussed how we can move forward with our collaborative work and how our collaboration also can be disseminated and implemented on a national level. One aspect will be to present the EULAR- EFFORT recommendations on management of acute swollen knee at national meetings. Another activity will be to elaborate a new set of recommendations where dissemination and implementation will be even more essential than in the swollen knee project.

We are therefore proposing a new task force following the standardized operating procedures for development of EULAR recommendations with the working title: EFORT/EULAR recommendations for prevention and management of osteoporotic fractures.

Proposal

Osteoporotic fractures are seen frequently in departments of orthopaedic surgery. Osteoporosis is often managed by rheumatologists, but also by other specialties. Patients with osteoporotic fractures will also need bone-assessment for evaluation of potential therapies to prevent further bone loss and reduce subsequent risk for fractures. We think this topic is timely and important, but we are also aware that many other organizations have developed
guidelines or recommendations for management and prevention of osteoporoses. Thus, the convenedors, the epidemiologists and the fellow in this particular task force can consider to focus more on previously issued guidelines than to review the complete literature which is available in the field.

The organization of this task force will follow the standardized procedures with a few modifications. The convenedors will be appointed from both EULAR and EFORT. I propose that Willem Lems from Amsterdam could be a relevant convenedor from the rheumatological side with his competence in osteoporoses and also in the field of osteoporotic fractures. The epidemiologist and fellows have to be identified after EFORT has also appointed their convenedor.

We anticipate two meetings in Zürich with 20 experts, 10 from EFORT and 10 from EULAR. The costs will be shared by EULAR and EFFORT.

After elaboration of the recommendations we assume that new projects will be set up to work on the dissemination and importantly implementation of the recommendations into clinical practice. We think that this joint project has a potential to improve the standard of care in both rheumatological and orthopaedic surgical departments with regard to prevention and management of osteoporotic fractures.