

Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases

A journal of clinical rheumatology and connective tissue research

This journal founded by the Empire Rheumatism Council, now the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research in Great British and the Commonwealth, is also supported by the Heberden Society.

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These findings should be considered along with the observations which indicate that the bone density is greater in patients with hip osteoarthritis.²⁻⁴ This modification of the bone could, along with cartilage alteration, play a role in the pathogenesis of the disease.⁵ Indeed 25-HCC is involved in calcium-phosphorous metabolism and the serum albumin (to which the nondiffusible calcium is bound), may be incorporated into the bone matrix during bone turnover.⁶ These age-related blood changes of albumin and 25-HCC—2 substances whose metabolism is related to liver function—thus demonstrate a biological evolution in ageing which seems to reflect the condition of the skeleton with an atrophic variant (FNF) and an inverse variant (HOA).

We are continuing our research in order to complete the statistical analysis of all our results and to determine the possible variations in the different types of hip osteoarthritis as well as other forms of osteoarthritis.

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- ⁶ Owen M, Triffitt J T. Extravascular albumin in bone tissue. *J Physiol* 1976; **257**: 293-307.

Fifth Latin Congress of Rheumatology

The 5th Latin Congress of Rheumatology will be held in Florence on 4-7 October 1982 at the Palazzo dei Congressi. The themes will be osteoarthropathies in the elderly; psoriatic arthropathy; prognosis of rheumatic diseases; chronic pain in rheumatic patients; immune-complex pathology; and inflammation of the synovial membrane. Details from the Secretariat, Centro Italiano Congressi, Via L. Spallanzani 11, 00161 Rome, Italy.

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