Whereas IL-1ra can completely prevent the latter process, blocking activation of the mature chemoattractant requires simultaneous inhibition of TNF and IL-1. It would therefore be logical to contemplate clinical trials in RA, inhibiting both of these cytokines and observing the effect on RA related osteoporosis as an end point.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Ehlers Danlos syndrome and osteoporosis

Ehlers Danlos syndrome (EDS) is a group of inherited connective tissue disorders with extreme genetic and clinical variability. The clinical manifestations of EDS are a result of abnormalities in collagen types 1 and 3, the major proteins of skin, ligaments, tendons, blood vessels, and internal viscera. Type I collagen is also the main protein constituent of the bone matrix and its abnormalities form the molecular basis of osteogenesis imperfecta (OI). EDS is therefore closely linked to OI and the two conditions are known to coexist.

In spite of this there are no detailed studies available on bone mineral content and structure in EDS.

In the past three years we have seen seven patients with EDS and assessed bone densities in the lumbar spine and hip using dual energy x-ray absorptiometry. A 65 year old lady referred from the orthopaedic department for investigations of a wedge fracture of the L2 vertebra. She did not have any obvious precipitating causes for osteoporosis in her past medical, menstrual,