

Updates in Parathyroid Disease

Elaine W. Yu, MD, MMSC
 Endocrine Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital
 Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School

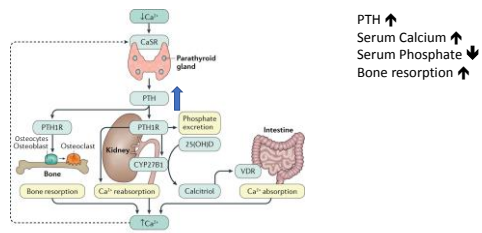
1

Disclosures

- Research grants from Amgen

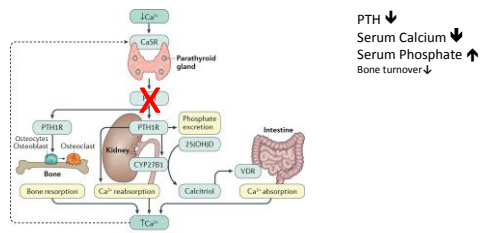
2

PTH – Principal Regulator of Serum Calcium



3

PTH – Principal Regulator of Serum Calcium



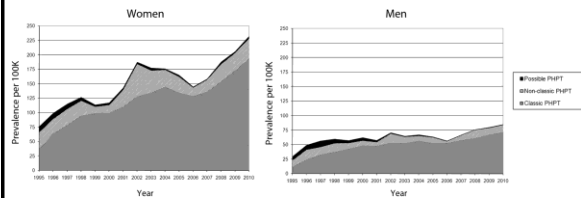
4

New Clinical Guidelines for Hyperparathyroidism and Hypoparathyroidism

- International Workshop on Parathyroid Disease
 - 5th Workshop on Primary Hyperparathyroidism
 - 2nd Workshop on Hypoparathyroidism
- Summary of guidelines presented at ASBMR 2021 conference
 - Hyperparathyroidism guidelines presented by Dr. John Bilezikian
 - Hypoparathyroidism guidelines presented by Dr. Aliya Khan
- 17 articles in JBMR to be published in 2022

5

Primary hyperparathyroidism: prevalence



6

Primary Hyperparathyroidism: Diagnosis

- Elevated serum calcium adjusted for albumin in the presence of an elevated or inappropriately normal intact PTH
 - PTH should be assessed with either a 2nd or 3rd generation assay, in absence of biotin supplements
 - Lab pattern should be observed on 2 occasions at least 2 weeks apart
 - In absence of end-stage kidney disease
- Albumin-correction for serum calcium for albumin < 4 g/dL
 - Corrected calcium = serum calcium + 0.8 * (4 – serum albumin)
 - Less clear whether similar correction should be applied for high albumin levels

7

Normocalcemic Primary Hyperparathyroidism: Diagnosis

- Normal adjusted calcium and normal ionized calcium in the presence of an elevated intact PTH
 - Lab pattern should be observed on 2 occasions over 3-6 months
 - All alternative causes of secondary hyperparathyroidism should have been ruled out
 - Stage 3-5 CKD (eGFR <60)
 - Calcium malabsorption
 - Vitamin D deficiency
 - Primary hypercalciuria
 - Bisphosphonate or denosumab use
- Some (but not all) studies show progression to hypercalcemic primary hyperparathyroidism over time
- Some studies also show high prevalence of renal/bone disease, although may reflect referral bias

8

Differential Diagnosis

- Thiazide diuretics (induce hypocalciuria)
- Lithium (induce parathyroid adenomas and hyperplasia)
- Ectopic PTH secretion (rare)
- Parathyroid carcinoma (rare)
- Genetic disorders
 - Familial Hypocalciuric Hypercalcemia (FHH)
 - Hyperparathyroidism jaw tumor syndrome
 - MEN1 or MEN 2

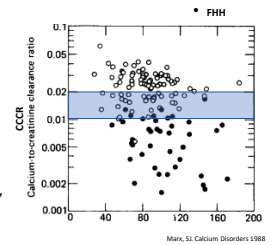
85% of primary HPTH is due to single benign parathyroid adenoma

Consider if age <30 yrs, multigland disease, or family history

9

Familial hypocalciuric hypercalcemia (FHH)

- Usually defect in CaSR, autosomal dominant
 - Calcium elevated from birth
- Urinary Calcium / Creatinine Clearance Ratio (CCCR)
 - $CCCR = \frac{[24\text{-hour Urine Ca} \times \text{serum Cr}]}{[\text{Serum Ca} \times 24\text{-hour Urine Cr}]}$
- Typically asymptomatic, no treatment required
- Gene sequencing of CaSR can confirm, but 2 other genes can also cause



10

Hyperparathyroidism jaw tumor syndrome

- Defect in HPRT2 gene, which encodes parafibromin
- Tumor predisposition
 - Parathyroid adenomas and carcinomas
 - Fibrous tumors of jaw
 - Nephroblastomas
- Requires early parathyroidectomy and bilateral exploration due to carcinoma risk



11

Primary hyperparathyroidism: clinical phenotypes

Symptomatic*

- Marked hypercalcemia
- Osteitis fibrosa cystica, fractures
- Chronic kidney disease, nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis
- Proximal myopathy

*Due to lack of sufficient data, neurocognitive symptoms and cardiovascular manifestations should not be considered when classifying as symptomatic.

12

Primary hyperparathyroidism: clinical phenotypes

Symptomatic*	Asymptomatic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked hypercalcemia • Osteitis fibrosa cystica, fractures • Chronic kidney disease, nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis • Proximal myopathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overt symptoms • With target organ damage (diagnosed after evaluation), or • Without target organ damage

*Due to lack of sufficient data, neurocognitive symptoms and cardiovascular manifestations should not be considered when classifying as symptomatic to guide parathyroid surgery

13

Primary hyperparathyroidism: clinical phenotypes

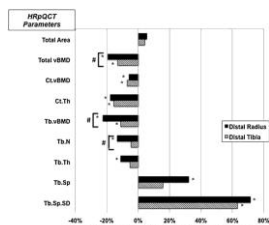
Symptomatic*	Asymptomatic	Normocalcemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marked hypercalcemia • Osteitis fibrosa cystica, fractures • Chronic kidney disease, nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis • Proximal myopathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overt symptoms • With target organ damage (diagnosed after evaluation), or • Without target organ damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No symptoms • May or may not have target organ damage

*Due to lack of sufficient data, neurocognitive symptoms and cardiovascular manifestations should not be considered when classifying as symptomatic to guide parathyroid surgery

14

Skeletal outcomes in primary hyperparathyroidism

- Classically thought to predominantly affect cortical bone
- More recent data demonstrate defects in cortical *and* trabecular compartments
 - HR-pQCT bone microarchitecture
 - Lower TBS

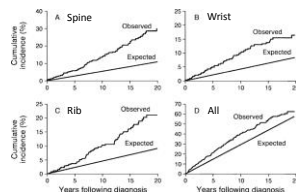


Stein et al JCEM 2012

15

Skeletal outcomes in primary hyperparathyroidism

- Classically thought to predominantly affect cortical bone
- More recent data demonstrate defects in cortical *and* trabecular compartments
 - HR-pQCT bone microarchitectures
 - Lower TBS
- Increased fracture risk at vertebral and non-vertebral sites



Khosla et al JBMR 1999

16

Renal outcomes in primary hyperparathyroidism

- Among patients with eGFR < 60 ml/min
 - Without surgery, persistent declines in eGFR are seen
 - Low eGFR associated with greater declines in bone density and increased fracture risk
- Stones and renal calcifications are common complications
 - Hypercalciuria is a risk factor
 - Other risk factors (hyperuricosuria, hypomagnesuria, hyperoxaluria, hypocitraturia, cystinuria) may play a role

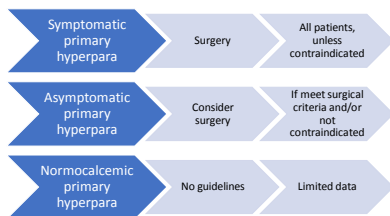
17

Primary hyperparathyroidism: Evaluation

Labs	Bone	Kidney
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simultaneous calcium, albumin, PTH on 2 occasions separated by 2 weeks • 25-hydroxyvitamin D • Creatinine • Phosphorus (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-site DXA (lumbar spine, hip, distal 1/3 radius) • Vertebral imaging (VFA, x-rays) • TBS (optional) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creatinine clearance or eGFR • 24 hr urine calcium and other stone risk factors • Imaging for nephrolithiasis or nephrocalcinosis (CT, U/S, x-rays)

18

When to consider parathyroidectomy?



19

Symptomatic patients: surgery recommended (unless contraindicated)

- Symptomatic primary hyperparathyroidism
 - Marked hypercalcemia
 - Osteitis fibrosa cystica, fractures
 - Chronic kidney disease, nephrolithiasis, nephrocalcinosis
 - Proximal myopathy
- Due to lack of sufficient data, neurocognitive symptoms and cardiovascular manifestations should not be considered when deciding on parathyroid surgery

20

Neuropsychiatric symptoms after parathyroidectomy (PTX)

- RCT of n=192 adults with primary hyperparathyroidism
 - Randomized to PTX or observation
 - Followed for 10 years, 33% dropout
- Overall, no meaningful change in quality of life for either group
- PTX achieved biochemical cure vs no change in Ca/PTH in controls

Pretorius et al JBMR 2021

21

Asymptomatic patients: Surgical indications*

Parameters	Criteria
Age	<50 years
Serum calcium	>1 mg/dL above upper limit of normal
Bone involvement	T-score < -2.5 at PA spine, total hip, fem neck, 1/3 radius Radiographic vertebral fractures
Kidney involvement	Creatinine clearance or eGFR <60 ml/min Nephrolithiasis or nephrocalcinosis Hypercalciuria (>4.4 mg/kg/day in men, >3.8 in women)

* Any patient without contraindications can choose surgery

Bilezikian et al JCEM 2014

22

Normocalcemic primary hyperparathyroidism

- No definitive guidelines for surgery due to limited data
- Management typically involves annual lab/imaging monitoring
 - If progression to hypercalcemia then follow guidelines
 - If significant renal/bone disease then some experts recommend to consider surgery

23

Parathyroid imaging

- Parathyroid imaging is not recommended for diagnostic purposes
- Preoperative imaging is recommended for those who are going to have parathyroid surgery
 - Ultrasound
 - Contrast-enhanced 4D-CT
 - Technetium-99m-sestamibi

24

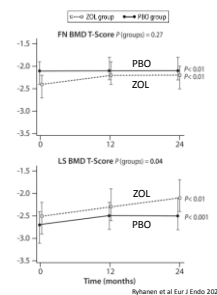
Surgical considerations

- Surgical outcomes are improved (and complications are lowered) with experienced parathyroid surgeon
 - 98% with biochemical cure
- Minimally invasive “selective” surgery (+/- intra-op PTH) can be considered if enlarged gland localized pre-operatively
 - 95-97% success rate with shorter operative time and fewer complications
- Parathyroidectomy significantly increases bone density

25

Timing of parathyroidectomy and bisphosphonates

- RCT of 56 adults with primary hyperparathyroidism and osteoporosis, undergoing PTX
 - Received zoledronic acid or placebo 1-3 months post-parathyroidectomy
- Bone turnover markers reduced in both groups, more so in ZOL group
- Bone density increased in both groups, more so in ZOL group



26

Goals of medical management of hyperparathyroidism

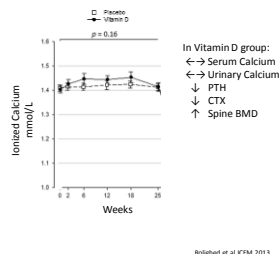
- Avoid symptomatic hypercalcemia
 - Maintain normal intake of dietary calcium (follow IOM guidelines)
 - Consider cinacalcet (lowers PTH modestly, no improvement in bone density)
- Avoid kidney stones
 - Low sodium diet, adequate fluid intake
 - Avoid thiazides, which can precipitate hypercalcemia
- Avoid osteoporosis and fractures
 - Bisphosphonates, denosumab*
- Aim for normal 25OH-vitamin D level
 - Vitamin D deficiency associated with higher PTH and bone turnover markers

*denosumab is not FDA-approved for primary hyperparathyroidism

27

Vitamin D replacement in mild primary hyperparathyroidism

- RCT of 46 adults with primary hyperparathyroidism
 - Placebo or Vitamin D3 2800 IU/day for 6 months
 - Excluded ionized calcium >1.6 mmol/L
- Uncontrolled studies suggest safety of vitamin D repletion in mild primary hyperparathyroidism
 - 2000 IU/day to 50,000 IU/week
 - PTH levels decline
 - Typically excluded moderate hypercalcemia Ca >12 mg/dL at baseline



28

Primary hyperparathyroidism: monitoring

Type of Monitoring	Frequency (US)
Serum Ca (ionized or albumin-corrected), PTH, 25OHD, eGFR or creatinine clearance	Annually
DXA bone density at spine, hip, and 1/3 radius	Every 1-2 years
24-hour urinary calcium and renal imaging (x-ray, CT, or U/S)	If clinically indicated
Vertebral imaging (x-ray, VFA, or TBS)	If clinically indicated

Bilackian et al JGIM 2014
Bilackian, J. Clinical Hypoparathyroidism Guidelines (oral presentation). ASBMR 2021

29

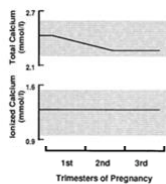
Indications to transition from monitoring to parathyroid surgery

- If serum calcium consistently >1 mg/dL above upper limit of normal
- Low-trauma fracture
- Kidney stone
- Significant bone loss (exceeding least significant change) and T-score less than -2.5 at any site
- Significant reduction in creatinine clearance

30

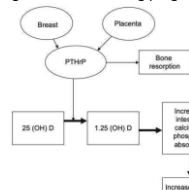
Pregnancy & Primary hyperparathyroidism: Diagnosis

→ Due to physiologic low albumin, follow ionized calcium levels during pregnancy



Kovacs and Komenberg, Endo Rev 1997

→ Physiologic hypercalciuria complicates diagnosis of FHH during pregnancy



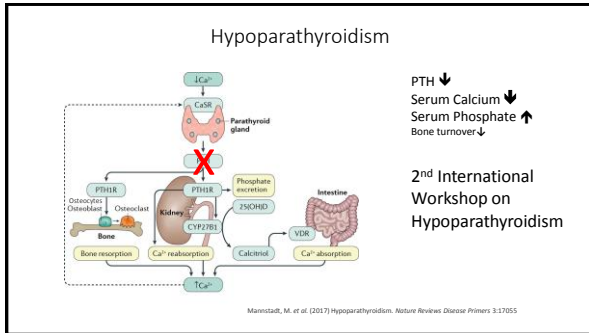
Al et al, JCM 2021

31

Pregnancy & Primary hyperparathyroidism: Management

- For mild cases, manage with hydration and lab monitoring
- If serum calcium >11.0 mg/dL, then consider parathyroidectomy during second trimester
- Preoperative imaging limited to ultrasound
- Pharmacologic considerations:
 - Calcitonin: can use short-term, doesn't cross placenta
 - Bisphosphonates and denosumab: avoid due to potential fetal toxicities
 - Cinacalcet: limited data, crosses placenta
- If surgery deferred, then monitor neonate closely for hypocalcemia and plan PTX after delivery and before next pregnancy

32



33

Hypoparathyroidism: Diagnosis

- Low albumin-corrected calcium or ionized calcium with concurrent low or inappropriately normal PTH
 - PTH should be assessed with either a 2nd or 3rd generation assay, in absence of biotin supplements
 - Lab pattern should be observed on 2 occasions at least 2 weeks apart
- Postsurgical hypoparathyroidism is considered permanent if persists >12 months

34

Hypoparathyroidism: Etiology

- Post-surgical (~75% of all hypoparathyroidism cases)
- Autoimmune (isolated or APCED)
- Genetic variants
- Functional (magnesium deficiency or excess)
- Other
 - Infiltrative (granulomatous)
 - Mineral deposition (copper, iron)
 - Metastatic
 - Radiation
 - Transient (severe burns or acute illness)
 - Maternal hyperparathyroidism
- Idiopathic

35

Predicting permanent hypoparathyroidism following total thyroidectomy

- Recommend measuring PTH 12-24 hours after total thyroidectomy
 - If PTH >10 pg/mL (1.05 pmol/L), then unlikely to develop permanent hypoparathyroidism
 - If PTH <10 pg/mL (1.05 pmol/L), then possibility of developing permanent hypoparathyroidism, but still less than 50%
- Recommendation based on systematic review and meta-analysis
- To minimize risk of permanent surgical hypoparathyroidism, parathyroid autotransplantation should not be used routinely during neck surgery

Khan A. Clinical Hypoparathyroidism Guidelines (oral presentation). ASBMR 2021

36

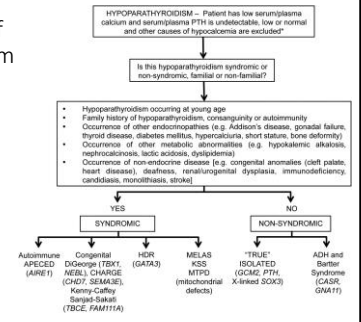
Genetic etiology of hypoparathyroidism

- First exclude postsurgical, magnesium, or infiltrative disorders
- Then undertake genetic testing if the following:
 - Family history of hypoparathyroidism
 - Syndromic features (e.g. concurrent endocrinopathies, congenital anomalies)
 - Younger than 40 years

Khan A. Clinical Hypoparathyroidism Guidelines (oral presentation). ASBMR 2021

37

Genetic etiology of hypoparathyroidism



Clarke B, et al. JCI 2016

38

Symptoms and complications of hypoparathyroidism

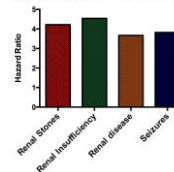
- Most common symptoms (median prevalence)
 - 24% Cataracts
 - 18% Infection
 - 15% Nephrocalcinosis/Nephrolithiasis
 - 12% Seizures
 - 11% Depression
 - 9% Ischemic heart disease
 - 7% Arrhythmias

Khan A. Clinical Hypoparathyroidism Guidelines (oral presentation). ASBMR 2021

39

688 Danish Postsurgical Patients and Controls

Risk of diseases in Pts with Postsurgical HP



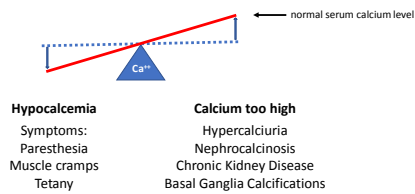
Cases (n=688) and controls (n=2,064)

Renal stones: 1.9%/0.4%
 Renal insufficiency: 5.1%/1.0%
 Renal disease: 7.8%/1.8%
 Seizures: 3.8%/1.0%

Underbjerg L, et al. J Bone Miner Res. 2013; 28:2277-2285.

40

The Central Challenge in Management of Hypoparathyroidism: Serum vs. Urinary Calcium



41

Goals of hypoparathyroidism therapy

- Maintain calcium in lower half of (or just below) normal reference range
- Alleviate symptomatic hypocalcemia
- Avoid hypercalciuria (<250/300 mg /24hr for women/men)
 - Low sodium diet + adequate fluid intake
 - Consider thiazide diuretic
- Avoid hyperphosphatemia
 - Low phosphate diet
 - Calcium supplements with meals to serve as phosphate binders
 - Judicious use of active vitamin D analogue
- Aim for normal levels of magnesium and 25OH-vitamin D

42

Monitoring for hypoparathyroidism

Type of Monitoring	Frequency (US)
Serum Ca (ionized or alb-corr), Phos, Mg, Creatinine, 25(OH)D	Yearly, or more frequently if indicated
24-hour urinary calcium	Yearly, or more frequently if indicated
Renal imaging	At baseline , and as clinically indicated
Monitor serum calcium following changes in therapy	Within days of a change in medical treatment

Bollerslev J, et al. *European J of Endocrinology*. 2015;173:2-61
Rasid M, et al. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. June 2016; 101(6):2273-2283
Khan A. *Clinical Hypoparathyroidism Guidelines (oral presentation)*. ASBMR 2021

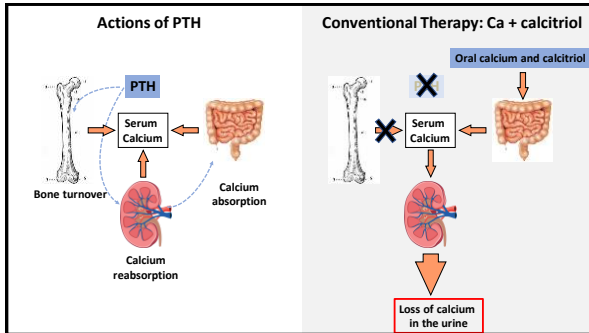
43

Conventional therapy for hypoparathyroidism

Medication	Dose	Comments
Calcium carbonate or citrate	Range from 500-3,000 mg TID, preferably with meals to enhance phosphate-binding effects	Calcium citrate preferred if concurrent PPI use
Vitamin D2 or D3	1000-100,000 weekly or daily based on 25OHD levels	Half-life 4-6 hrs
Calcitriol	0.25-3 mcg total daily dose, administered in divided doses	Half-life 5-8 hrs
Thiazide diuretics	25-100mg	Half-life 6-12 hrs

Steady state reached in 5-6 half-lives

44

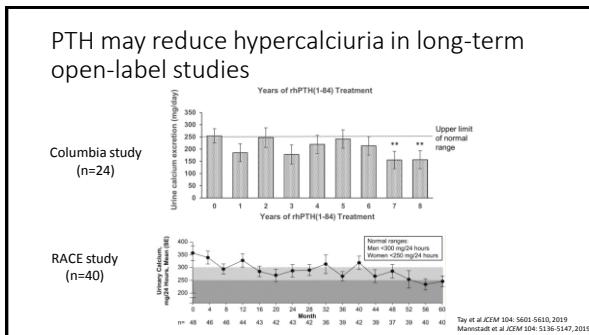


45

PTH vs conventional therapy

- Meta-analysis of 6 RCTs of PTH therapy
 - 2 RCTs of PTH 1-84
 - 3 RCTs of PTH 1-34 (not FDA-approved for treatment of hypoparathyroidism)
 - 1 RCT of Transcon PTH (not FDA-approved)
- In comparison to conventional therapy, PTH treatment:
 - Maintains eucalcemia
 - Lowers hyperphosphatemia
 - No effect of hypercalciuria
 - Increase in hypercalcemia

46



47

PTH vs conventional therapy

Outcomes with PTH treatment	Quality of evidence
Allows reductions in active vitamin D and calcium by >=50%	High
Small improvement in quality of life: physical health	Moderate
Little to no impact on quality of life: mental health	Low
Possible small increase in serious adverse events (e.g. hypercalcemia)	Low

In patients with chronic hypoparathyroidism, conventional therapy is first-line
When conventional therapy is deemed unsatisfactory, consider PTH

48

Candidates for PTH therapy

- Difficult to manage / fluctuating serum calcium
- Hyperphosphatemia
- Renal insufficiency, hypercalciuria, nephrolithiasis
- High doses of conventional therapy
- Poor adherence, GI side effects, and/or malabsorption of calcium supplements

49

Current Recall of PTH(1-84)

Sept 5, 2019: Recall due to the potential for rubber particulate
Fixing the problem takes time

Options:

1. Apply for "Special Use Program" (life-threatening condition)
2. Prescribe off-label teriparatide (need multiple injections)
3. Switch to calcium/calcitriol (watch for "hungry-bone" effect)

Slide provided by courtesy of Michael Mannstadt

50

Hypoparathyroidism treatment during pregnancy

- Calcium requirements increase due to fetal demand
 - Either maternal hypocalcemia or hypercalcemia can result in fetal parathyroid hypo/hyperactivity and fetal skeletal defects
- Physiologic increases in PTHrP and 1,25D tend to lower requirements for calcium supplements and active vitamin D
- Monitor albumin-adjusted or ionized calcium every 3-4 weeks during pregnancy and lactation
- Avoid thiazides (Class B) and PTH analogs (Class C) during pregnancy

51

Emerging therapies (not FDA-approved)

Proposed therapy	Pharmacology / Mechanism	Investigational Stage
Frequent PTH dosing	BID or continuous pump	In small trials, more consistent eucalcemia, minimizing hypercalciuria
Long-acting PTH analog	PTH/PTHrP hybrid analog for prolonged intracellular signaling	In phase 1 trials
Calcilytics	CaSR antagonists (for Autosomal Dominant Hypocalcemia)	In phase 2 trials
Oral PTH (1-34)	QID tablet	Recent phase 2 results
TransCon PTH (1-34)	Sustained release via cleavage of TransCon linker at physiologic pH and temperature	Recent phase 2 results

52

Oral PTH (not FDA-approved)

- oral PTH(1-34)
- QID tablet
- 15 patients treated for 16 weeks

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

JBMR®

Safety and Efficacy of Oral Human Parathyroid Hormone (1-34) in Hypoparathyroidism: An Open-Label Study

Sofia Ish-Shalom,¹ Joseph Caruso,² Naiman Subo Khason,³ Michal Gershinsky,⁴ Anyan Sotnik,⁵ Philip Schwartz,⁶ Eyal Adiri,⁷ Irit Glickson,⁸ Joseph C'Y Tsang,⁹ Gregory Beaudoin,¹⁰ Ariel Feinberg,¹¹ Arthur Ruzitski,¹² Miriam Blatt,¹³ and William D Fraser¹⁴

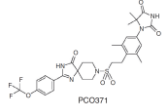
¹Parsons Research Center, San Francisco, California, USA; ²Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

³Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

⁴Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

⁵Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

⁶Department of Endocrinology and Clinical Biochemistry, North and South Hampshire Hospital, Newcastle, UK



- Maintained eucalcemia and lower phosphate with 42% reduction in calcium/calcitriol dose
- Possible 26% reduction in urinary calcium (p=0.07)

53

Transcon PTH (not FDA-approved)

PaTH Forward Study
Phase 2 RCT 4 weeks + 22 weeks open-label extension
N=59 (placebo, 15, 18, 21 mcg/d)

91% independence from SoC (Ca<500 mg)
Mean 24-hour calcium 415 → 178 mg/24 hours
Ca, P, CaxP normal
QoL: improved scores

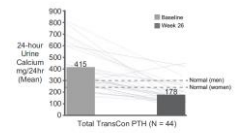


Figure 4. Mean 24-hour urine calcium at baseline and week 26. Gray lines represent individual patient data from baseline to week 26.

Khan AA, et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2022;107:6272-6285.

54

Summary

- New clinical guidelines for primary hyperparathyroidism
 - Diagnosis / Classification
 - Indications for surgery
 - Medical management
 - Pregnancy
- New clinical guidelines for hypoparathyroidism
 - Diagnosis
 - Conventional treatment
 - PTH treatment
 - Pregnancy
 - Emerging therapies



Official guidelines to be released later this year

55