

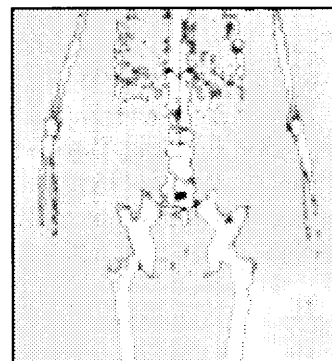
Hip Fracture Outcomes in People Age 50 and Over

INTRODUCTION

In 1991, there were 300,000 hip fractures in the United States. The great majority of these fractures (94 percent) occurred in people age 50 and over, and most occurred in very old people: 55 percent occurred in people age 80 and over, and 33 percent occurred in people age 85 and over (127,138). As the U.S. population ages and the number of very old people increases, the number of hip fractures will also increase.

Virtually all people with a hip fracture are hospitalized for treatment of the fracture, and a small proportion dies in the hospital. Most of those who are discharged from the hospital require further treatment. Many are transferred to a nursing home; some are transferred to a rehabilitation facility or another short-stay hospital; others are cared for at home by family members, formal (paid) service providers, or both. For some time after the fracture, average mortality and levels of functional impairment are higher for people with a hip fracture than for people of the same age who have not had a hip fracture.

Hip fracture is the most serious and costly potential result of osteoporosis. As part of a congressionally requested study of policy issues in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) analyzed the available information on the outcomes of hip fracture.¹ This background paper presents OTA's findings from that analysis.



¹OTA's study of policy issues in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis was requested by the Senate Special Committee on Aging; Senator Charles E. Grassley; Senator John Glenn, the House Select Committee on Aging; Representative Olympia J. Snowe; Representative Benjamin A. Gilman; and former Representatives Brian J. Donnelly, Thomas J. Downey, and Patricia F. Saiki.