The aim of this study was to evaluate in 65 patients, who had previously undergone allogenic bone marrow transplant (ABMT), the bone mineral density (BMD), the skeletal turnover and the prevalence of vertebral fractures. The L1-L4 BMD study showed: 10/55 osteoporotic (18.1%), 19/55 osteopenic (34.5%) and 26/55 normal patients (47.4%). In transplanted patients BMD values, obtained at the three considered sites, resulted significantly reduced (p < 0.01) in comparison to controls. Moreover, in patients who had undergone ABMT, a statistically significant increase was observed, in comparison to healthy subjects, in total alkaline phosphatase (p < 0.01), bone alkaline phosphatase (p < 0.01) and CTx/Cr levels (p < 0.001). Seven of the 55 transplanted patients (12.7%) presented at the moment of Rx morphometric evaluation at least one vertebral fracture: 6 of whom were affected by osteoporosis and 1 by osteopenia. In conclusion, the subjects who had previously undergone ABMT maintain, even a certain time after the transplant and without any rejection, an increased skeletal turnover and BMD values mainly lower than normal, leading to an increased risk for vertebral fracture.

CASE REPORTS

Budd-Chiari syndrome with fatal course in a patient with polycythemia vera and antiphospholipid antibody syndrome G. Brogna, F. Dazzani, P. Franceschetti, G. Zoli To the authors’ knowledge this is the first case of Budd-Chiari syndrome characterized by the presence of polycythemia vera and antiphospholipid antibodies. They reported a case where the positivity of lupus anticoagulant represented an additional thrombogenic factor that caused a sequence of thrombotic events in spite of normal hematologic parameters.

Kinetics of the circulating levels of bone alkaline phosphatase in a case of hungry bone disease following total parathyroidectomy L.F. Morrone, M. Tampoia, N. Pansini, L. Gesualdo The authors describe the case of a male hemodialysis patient who developed severe secondary hyperparathyroidism treated by total parathyroidectomy. During the period of hungry bone disease following parathyroidectomy, the biochemical markers of bone turnover, such as bone alkaline phosphatases, circulating concentrations of intact parathormone and serum electrolytes, were serially measured.

Alternations of the sympathovagal balance evaluated by heart rate variability in a rare case of adult Still’s disease L. Baratta, M. Delfino, A. Fiorentini, M. Martuscelli, L. Tubani The authors present a rare case of adult Still’s disease with cardiac involvement. Autonomic nervous system function was evaluated by heart rate variability analysis performed by means of 24-hour electrocardiographic recording during the acute phase and during the remission of the disease (after 1 month and 1 year). The results of the analysis of heart rate variability highlight that in the acute phase of the disease with cardiac involvement the autonomic nervous system is globally altered owing to impairment of the parasympathetic component.