



SCIENCE | REACTIONS

After the Fall: Preventing Catastrophe

NOV. 10, 2014

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Re “A Struggle to Keep an Aging Nation on Its Feet” (Nov. 3) and “A Tiny Stumble, a Life Upended” (Nov. 4):

TO THE EDITOR:

“A Tiny Stumble, a Life Upended” points out how a fracture can completely devastate the life of an active, healthy adult. However, nowhere does the article mention the most likely underlying cause of the patient’s pelvic fracture — osteoporosis.

Indeed, 80 percent of senior citizens suffer osteoporotic fractures and are never evaluated and treated for osteoporosis. This occurs despite clear evidence that the likelihood of a highly probable second fracture can be reduced 50 percent or more by appropriate medical therapy.

The National Osteoporosis Foundation, the leading organization in the United States focused on this important health problem, urges every person over 50 years old who breaks a bone to seek evaluation for osteoporosis and insist upon a bone density measurement. The results of that test could make the difference between a healthy active future and a painful and limited one.

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