

Letter to the Editor: Regarding “The Utility and Limitations of FRAX: A US Perspective”

Edward Czerwinski

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To the Editor:

In the publication: Stuart L. Silverman and Andrew D. Calderon. The Utility and Limitations of FRAX: A US Perspective (Curr Osteoporos Rep. 2010 December; 8(4): 192–197) on page 195, 2nd paragraph line 25–26, there is: “FRAX has recently been added to bone density software. It

is currently on a calculator in Japan, a CD in Poland, and has now appeared on the US iPhone.”

I wish to clarify that in Poland there is no FRAX on CD. Instead, in 2009 we developed a hand-held calculator which enables fracture risk calculation without using a computer. It consists of four independent paper disks with data and a window showing the result of calculations (Fig. 1). On one side BMI is calculated (known body weight and height), then shows 10-year risk of a fracture according to a number of risk factors (Fig. 2). The other side the calculator does the same



Fig. 1 Hand-held FRAX calculator: general view on the side calculating fracture risk based on BMI

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Fig. 2 Hand-held FRAX calculator: the transparent disk with an arrow indicates BMI. This is calculated when weight is matched to height on the next disk

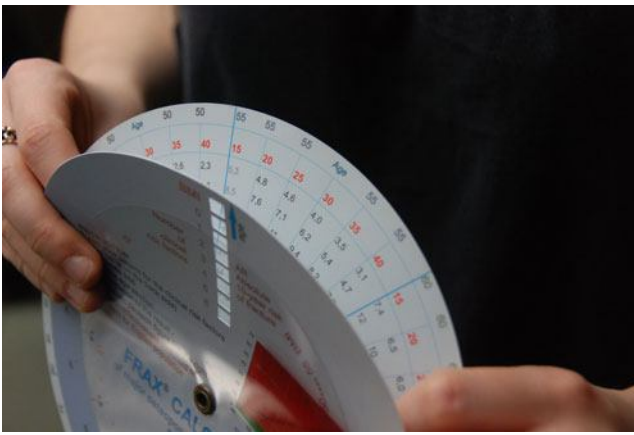


Fig. 3 Hand-held FRAX calculator: on the inner disk there are fracture risk data according to FRAX (this is data for the English population). When BMI appears in the window (appropriate to the age) a value of fracture risk shows according to the number of clinical risk factors

when we know the T-score and the number of risk factors (Figs. 3 and 4).

This tool was devoted to medical staff and patients who have no access to FRAX online. I guess the author was misled by a slide frequently presented by Prof. John Kanis or Prof. Eugene McCloskey on which the tool looks like a CD but in fact it is not.

Below the text I'm enclosing a few photos presenting how it works and I am sending an original to you and the author by mail. This calculator is supposed to be used in the



Fig. 4 Hand-held FRAX calculator: On the outer disk there are numbers indicating risk factors. When the T-score appears in the window fracture risk may be read according to the number of risk factors

countries with poor or no access to Internet and it is based on a country's epidemiological data. A study validating this tool against FRAX online is about to be published.

Best regards,
Prof. Edward Czerwinski
Head of the Department

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