

Table 1. Patients' characteristics.

	All patients N(%)	Alendronate N(%)	Etidronate N(%)	Risedronate N(%)
	849	710	181	130
Age (years)	61.8 ± 9.9	61.8 ± 10.1	62.1 ± 9.6	61.4 ± 9.0
Gender (female)	801 (94.3)	665 (93.7)	174 (96.1)	126 (96.9)
Postmenopausal osteoporosis	727 (85.6)	601 (84.6)	161 (89.0)	118 (90.8)
Co-morbidity				
history of malignancy	33 (3.9)	27 (3.8)	7 (3.9)	17 (13.1) ^{a,b}
history of GI system disease	136 (16.0)	95 (13.4)	54 (29.8) ^a	30 (23.%) ^a
Concurrent therapy				
glucocorticoids per os	60 (7.1)	52 (7.3)	9 (5.0)	12 (9.2)
NSAIDs	328 (38.6)	288 (40.6)	81 (44.8)	48 (36.9)
aspirin	73 (8.6)	56 (7.9)	13 (7.2)	16 (12.3)
Treatment duration (months) mean±SD	27.1 ± 19.9	25.8 ± 19.3	17.2 ± 12.0	12.0 ± 6.6

GI: gastro-intestinal, NSAIDs: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Data are presented as absolute values (percentage) or mean ± standard deviation. ^a $p < 0.05$ vs. alendronate, ^b $p < 0.05$ vs. etidronate (Mantel-Haenszel).