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## Role of bone morphogenetic protein-2 in primary knee osteoarthritis

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**Introduction:** Many different factors contribute to the onset and progression of OA. The bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), that are subsets of the (TGF-  $\beta$ ) superfamily, stimulate production of extracellular matrix components by chondrocytes and have the ability to counteract catabolic cytokines like interleukin 1 (IL-1).

**Aim of the work:** The aim of this study was to investigate the role of plasma BMP-2 in primary knee osteoarthritis and its relation to disease severity.

**Methodology:** The study included 30 patients with primary knee OA and ten apparently healthy matched individuals as a control group. Plasma levels of BMP-2, radiological severity of the disease, pain intensity as well as, assessment of functional status using the Western Ontario and McMaster University Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) were done.

### Results:

Plasma levels of BMP-2 were significantly higher in patients than in control group.

Patients with palpable osteophytes have the highest BMP-2 levels.

A strong positive correlation was found between plasma levels of BMP-2 and each of: radiological severity, disease duration and WOMAC score.

**In Conclusion:** BMP-2 levels correlate with radiographic severity of OA which make such biomarker measurement may not only act as a substitute marker for the disease, but also has the potential to contribute to the fundamental processes underlying the pathogenesis of OA.

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