Evidence for the efficacy of antiresorptive therapies (ART) is convincing for the most part in terms of risk reduction of osteoporotic fractures among high-risk postmenopausal women. Very little information has been published on the frequency of use of ART.

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the probability (P) over time of ART use in women aged 70 years and older who had at least one diagnosed osteoporotic fracture to those without a fracture.

METHODS: A cohort design was used, and a random sample of women was collected from RAMQ database. Women were classified in four cohorts, of which two status were defined: those with a fracture and those without fracture in the 5 years prior to cohort entry. The cohort entry was defined as January 95, 96, 98 and 2000. These women were followed up for a year after cohort entry. Several exclusion criteria applied in the 5 years prior cohort entry were used. We stopped to follow women at their 85th birth date. The P of filling at least one prescription of ART during the year following cohort entry was determined using a logistic regression adjusting for age.

RESULTS: Mean age and CDS were 78 years old and 3.3. Prior use of ART ranged from 8.9% to 31.2%, and 8.7% to 17.2 for women with and without fracture, respectively. The P of filling at least one prescription of ART excluding HRT from 1995 to 2001 ranged from 1.6% to 28.3% and from 0.5% to 11.3% among women with and without fracture, respectively. The P of filling at least one prescription of HRT ranged from 7.2% to 9.3% for women with and without fracture.

CONCLUSIONS: Our results show an increase of ART use excluding HRT overtime. But, there is still an under-use of ART among women with fracture.