Dear Editor,

We thank Dr. JM Moran for his interest in our article on radial QUS in pediatric CF patients. We agree that the results of QUS in children suffering from chronic diseases affecting mineralization might be site specific and technique dependent. A large study of children with different chronic diseases showed that phalangeal QUS does not identify the same osteopenic patients as assessed by other techniques [1]. Given our experience in CF with pQCT, documenting a reduced cortical thickness at the radius, we have chosen radial QUS to have a similar site measurement and because of its dependence on cortical bone [2]. In our study, we found that radial QUS was not able to differentiate CF patients with or without thoracic vertebral fractures. However, in clinical practice a technique predicting the occurrence of new low impact fractures on the short term (in the next 5 years) in CF would be most welcome. But without a prospective study evaluating both radial and phalangeal QUS, it is difficult to determine which bone technique is more "correct".

References


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