

Reply to the comment on: The great challenge: bone fragility and environment

Sirs,

We are pleased to receive Dr Weisz' constructive and pertinent feedback on our review. Indeed, while we did focus on the impact of body weight loss – and variation of weight over time – on bone mineral density and fracture risk, we did not stress enough the role of nutrition in this context, a tragic example of which was provided by the Holocaust. In this regard, according to a recent review that included, among others, publications showing your extensive work on Holocaust survivors, it is evident that there is a significantly increased risk of osteoporosis and fragility fractures after starvation (1). These findings are made more dramatic when we acknowledge that not only are the survivors affected, but also their children (born either during or years after the Holocaust) and even their grandchildren. This suggests that the negative ef-

fects on bone may occur due to either direct effects of severe nutritional deprivation and possible epigenetic mechanisms transmissible to descendants (2).

As we write the present reply on January 27th 2025, which marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp in Nazi Germany-occupied Poland, we would like to participate heartedly in the Commemoration in memory of the Shoah. We all hope that such a terrible crime against humanity will not happen again.

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References

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2. WEISZ GM: Starvation osteoporosis in Shoah survivors: emphasis on descendant generations. *Isr Med Assoc J* 2024; 26(4): 207-10.