

Sex Hormones Help Save Aging Bones

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Associated Press Science Reporter.

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A disease which all older people have but few do anything about was called to the attention of the Nation's family doctors today.

The ailment is a "thinning" of bone substance which gradually weakens the skeleton. It is the result of the decreasing production by the body of sex hormones, and is one of the reasons why the bones of the elderly, particularly women, break so easily.

SEX HORMONES HELP.

This condition, called osteoporosis, can be treated by doctors in general through the administration of sex hormones, Dr. Gilbert S. Gordan told the American Academy of General Practice.

Doctor Gordan, a gland specialist at the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, said the use of ACTH and Cortisone aggravates the condition. These drugs, frequently given for arthritis and other diseases of the aged, interfere with the free growth of bone cells.

The bone thinning process begins in women about the time the menopause starts and advances with age. It starts later in men than in women, the

specialist said, because sex hormone production continues somewhat longer in males. The hormones stimulate bone cell growth as well as other body processes.

The ailment is more severe when it results from a disease marked by premature insufficiency of sex hormones. In natural aging the effects are less acute, the specialist reported.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT.

In another report Dr. Charles A. Hufnagel, surgeon of Georgetown University Medical School, told about a ten year program for the transplanting of whole organs from one body to another.

The ultimate aim, Doctor Huf-