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**NEWSTRACK - SCIENCE**



Published: March 26, 2007 at 1:06 PM

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**Estrogen bone density pathway discovered**

BUFFALO, N.Y., March 26 (UPI) -- U.S. medical scientists have discovered a pathway by which estradiol, the primary estrogen in humans, aids in maintaining bone density.

The [University of Buffalo](#) researchers said it's well known estrogen is essential for healthy bone density and that when the production of estrogen is reduced bones become brittle and break easily. However, the mechanisms involved have not been clearly understood.

The new study found one way estradiol helps to maintain bone density is by stopping the activation of an enzyme known as caspase-3.

Also called the executioner caspase, caspase-3 is the central player in initiating the process of apoptosis, or programmed cell death of osteoblasts, the bone cells that aid in the growth and development of new bone and teeth.

The study by Associate Professor Peter Bradford, doctoral candidate Brian Chrzan and dental student Kenneth Gerace was presented last week in [New Orleans](#) during a meeting of the International Association of Dental Research.

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