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Lu, Y., Boudiffa, M., Dall'Ara, E. et al. (2 more authors) (2016) Development of a protocol to quantify local bone adaptation over space and time: quantification of reproducibility. Journal of Biomechanics, 49 (10). pp. 2095-2099. ISSN 0021-9290

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2016.05.022

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Short communication: 1

Development of a protocol to quantify local bone 2 adaptation over space and time: quantification of 3 reproducibility 4 5

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- Word count (from Introduction until Acknowledgement): 2131 23
- Number of figures: 4 24
- Number of tables: 0 25

1 Abstract

In vivo micro-computed tomography (µCT) scanning of small rodents is a 2 3 powerful method for longitudinal monitoring of bone adaptation. However, the 4 life-time bone growth in small rodents makes it a challenge to quantify local bone adaptation. Therefore, the aim of this study was to develop a protocol, 5 which can take into account large bone growth, to quantify local bone 6 adaptations over space and time. The entire right tibiae of eight 14-week-old 7 C57BL/6J female mice were consecutively scanned four times in an in vivo 8 μ CT scanner using a nominal isotropic image voxel size of 10.4 μ m. The 9 repeated scan image datasets were aligned to the corresponding baseline (first) 10 scan image dataset using rigid registration. 80% of tibia length (starting from 11 the endpoint of the proximal growth plate) was selected as the volume of 12 interest and partitioned into 40 regions along the tibial long axis (10 divisions) 13 and in the cross-section (4 sectors). The bone mineral content (BMC) was used 14 to quantify bone adaptation and was calculated in each region. All local BMCs 15 have precision errors ($PE_{\%CV}$) of less than 3.5% (24 out of 40 regions have 16 PE_{%CV} of less than 2%), least significant changes (LSCs) of less than 3.8%, and 17 38 out of 40 regions have intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) of over 0.8. 18 The proposed protocol allows to quantify local bone adaptations over an entire 19 tibia in longitudinal studies, with a high reproducibility, an essential 20 requirement to reduce the number of animals to achieve the necessary statistical 21 power. 22

23

Keywords: *in vivo* micro-CT; local bone adaptation; mouse tibia; space and
time

1 1. Introduction

Bone adaptation is a process in which bone undergoes adaptive changes. 2 While bone keeps its strength through balanced resorption and formation, 3 disorder of bone adaptation can lead to bone diseases, such as osteoporosis, 4 osteomalacia, Paget's disease, etc. [Britton and Walsh, 2012;Shih 2012]. 5 6 Small rodents offer a cost-effective and efficient way for the investigation of bone diseases in preclinical studies. In addition, the development of *in vivo* high 7 resolution micro-computed tomography (μ CT) scanning on the entire bone of 8 small rodents offers a powerful approach to quantify bone adaptations over 9 space and time [Altman et al., 2015; Birkhold et al., 2014; Lambers et al., 10 2013; Lu et al., 2015]. To quantify bone adaptations, three-dimensional (3D) 11 bone morphometric measurements (trabecular thickness, trabecular separation, 12 cortex thickness, etc.) over a volume of interest (VOI) (proximal mouse tibia, 13 tibial midshaft, etc.) were used [Bouxsein et al., 2010; Campbell et al., 2014; 14 Lambers et al., 2013; Nishiyama et al., 2010]. Although 3D image registration 15 can improve the long-term precision of these measurements [Campbell et al., 16 2014], these morphometric measurements were averaged values over a region 17 of an entire bone and can hardly be used to quantify local bone adaptations over 18 the entire bone'sspace. On the contrary, in vivo µCT images obtained at the 19 same anatomical site over different time points were superimposed using the 20 rigid registration, and then bone formation and resorption were quantified from 21 the superimposed images [Birkhold et al., 2014; Schulte et al., 2011]. 22 However, in rodents like mouse, bone growth spans across the animal's life 23 time [Glatt et al., 2007], and should be taken into account when interpreting the 24 data [Birkhold et al., 2014]. This is particular true for long bones (e.g. tibia), 25 where changes in length due to growth can be significant. In this case, it may 26 still be valid to quantify bone formation and resorption over a short time 27 interval with rigidly registered images [Birkhold et al., 2014], but this approach 28 would fail in a longer time interval (e.g. 2 weeks) due to the significant shift and 29

changes of bone structure caused by bone growth. Therefore, in this study, a 1 novel protocol that aims to account for large bone growth was proposed to 2 quantify the local bone adaptationover a larger volume of interest (80% of 3 mouse tibia) and over space and time. 4

5

2. Material and methods 6

2.1 Animals 7

8 The detailed information on animals can be found in Lu et al. [2015]. In summary, eight 14-week-old female C57BL/6J (BL6) mice were used and the 9 mice were well housed before the experiment. All the procedures were 10 approved by the local Research Ethics Committee of the University of Sheffield 11 (Sheffield, UK). 12

In vivo µCT scanning 2.2 13

The details of the *in vivo* µCT scanning were in Lu et al. [2015]. In summary, 14 the entire right tibia of every mouse was scanned four times consecutively (the 15 scanning of each tibia took approximately 40 minutes) with an in vivo µCT 16 system (vivaCT 80, Scanco Medical, Bruettisellen, Switzerland) at 14-week-old. 17 For the duration of the scanning, the mice were placed on a heating pad, 18 maintained under anaesthetic gases (isoflurane). Between each scan, the mouse 19 (kept under anaesthesia) was repositioned in the sample holder to simulate a 20 longitudinal study design. The scanner was operated at 55 keV, 145 µA, an 21 integration time of 200 ms and a nominal isotropic image voxel size of 10.4 μ m. 22 The radiation dose from the μ CT scanning was estimated to be approximately 23 500 mGy for each scan, which has been proved to cause no significant effect on 24 bone adaptations [Laperre et al., 2011]. 25

26

2.3 Image processing and calculation of bone parameters

In the image processing chain, first, an alignment procedure was defined so 27 that all tibiae, regardless of their positions in the scanner, were aligned to the 28

same anatomical reference system. In the alignment procedure, the tibia from 1 the baseline scan was taken as the reference, referred as baseline scan 1 2 thereafter. The tibia of the baseline scan 1 (Figure 1a) was placed back into its 3 anatomical position, i.e. the long axis of the tibia was approximately aligned 4 with the global z axis and the y-z plane passed though the centre line of the 5 articular surfaces of the medial and lateral condyles (Figure 1b). The tibiae 6 from the repeated scans and from other mice were rigidly registered and 7 transformed to the transformed tibia of baseline scan 1 (Figure 1d) and then 8 resampled using the Lanczos kernel [Turkowski and Gabriel, 1990]. 9

After the image transformation, the tibial length (L) was measured as the distance from the most proximal tibial bone pixel until the most distal tibial bone pixel. Afterwards, a region of 80% of L (**Figure 1d**), starting from the end of the proximal growth plate [**Klinck et al., 2008**] was cropped out [Amira 5.4.3, FEI Visualization Sciences Group, France]. Then the tibial VOI was extracted by removing the proximal part of fibula (**Figures 1e and 1f**) (Matlab v2015a, the Mathworks, Inc. USA).

To investigate the spatial adaptation of the Bone Mineral Content (BMC), 17 the tibial VOI was partitioned into 40 sub-volumes. In the tibial longitudinal 18 (proximal-distal) direction, the tibial VOI was divided into 10 regions (Figure 19 **1e**). In the tibial transverse (x-y) section, a polar coordinate system was created 20 for each image slice. The system was originated at the centre of mass of each 21 slice and the x-axis was defined from the tibial medial side towards the lateral 22 side (Figure 1g). In the tibial transverse section, the tibia was then divided into 23 4 sectors (anterior, medial, posterior and lateral sectors), starting from the 24 position that is 45 degrees away from the x-axis (Figure 1g). 25

To calculate BMC in each sub-volume, firstly, the grayscale VOI datasets were smoothed with a Gaussian filter (convolution kernel [3 3 3], standard deviation = 0.65) and then binarised into bone and background using a fixed single level threshold, i.e. 25.5% of maximal grayscale value (around 420 mg

HA/ccm) [Klinck et al., 2008], close to the values applied in other studies
performed on mouse bone with the same image resolution [Birkhold et al.,
2014; Lambers et al., 2015; Lukas et al., 2013]. The BMC in each subvolume was calculated as the volume of image voxel times the Bone Mineral
Density (BMD) values summed over all bone voxels. In addition, the cortical
and trabecular compartments were separated [Buie et al., 2007] and the total
BMC for each bone type [Ct.BMC and Tb.BMC] was calculated.

Following the standard procedure, the bone morphometric measurements 8 were quantified in order to ensure the quality of the images by comparing with 9 literature data. Trabecular bone volume fraction (Tb.BV/TV), trabecular 10 thickness (Tb.Th), trabecular separation (Tb.Sp), trabecular number (Tb.N) 11 were computed in the region (Region 1 in Figure 1c) extending 1.00 mm 12 distally from the growth plate, with an offset of 0.20 mm from the most distal 13 break in the calcified cartilage bridge of the growth plate observed in the 14 grayscale CT slice [Nishiyama et al., 2010; Klinck et al., 2008]. Cortex 15 thickness (Ct.th) was calculated in a 1.00mm region centred at the tibial mid-16 shaft (Region 2 in Figure 1c). 17

18 2.4 Statistical analysis

The reproducibility of the global and local bone mineral content variables was characterized by the precision errors (PEs) [Glueer et al., 1995], the least significant change (LSCs) [Burghardt et al., 2013; Shepherd and Lu, 2007] and the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs) [Schrout and Fleiss, 1979]. PEs were expressed as the coefficients of variation (CV) (PE_{%CV}).

24
$$PE_{\%cv} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{m} \% CV_j^2 / m}$$
 (1)

25 with

26 %CV_j =
$$\frac{\text{SD}_j}{\bar{x}_j} \times 100\%$$
 (2)

1 where, m is the subject number (m = 8 in the current study) and \bar{x}_j is the mean 2 of all x_{ij} for subject j.

3

4
$$LSC = Z \times PE_{\%CV} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2}}$$
 (3)

where, Z-score corresponds a two-tailed 95% confidence level (Z=1.96), while n_1 and n_2 are the number of measures performed at baseline (n_1) and follow-up (n_2), respectively.

8 The ICC is the ratio of the between-subject variance divided by the 9 population variance [**Nishiyama et al., 2010**].

10 ICC =
$$\frac{F_0 - 1}{F_0 + (n - 1)}$$
 (4)

where, F_0 is the ratio of between-subject mean squares over the residual withinsubject mean squares and n is the number of repetitions (n = 4 in this study).

13

14 **3. Results**

The tibial length has a $PE_{\%CV}$ of 0.11%, a LSC of 0.13% and anICC of 0.99. Bone morphometric parameters have $PE_{\%CV}$ ranging from 0.49% (Ct.Th) to 3.59% (Tb.BV/TV), LSC from 0.56% to 4.14%, and ICCs from 0.93 (Tb.Sp) to 0.99 (Ct.Th), the values of which are comparable to the data in literature (**Figure 2**). The Ct.BMC and Tb.BMC have $PE_{\%CV}$ of 1.58% and 3.04%,LSC of 1.82% and 3.51%, and ICCs of 0.95 and 0.98, respectively.

Regarding the local BMC measurements, 24 out of 40 regions (60%) have PE_{%CV} less than 2%, 15 regions (37.5%) between 2% and 3%, and one region (2.5%) with 3.2% (**Figure 3**). LSCs for the 40 regions were less than 3.80%, ranging from 1.46% to 3.78%. 29 out of 40 regions (72.5%) have ICCs over 0.90, 9 regions (22.5%) between 0.80 and 0.90 (**Figure 3**). With respect to the anatomical location of the tibia, there is no spatial variability pattern for the reproducibility. The mean ± SD values of tibial morphometric measurements, global and
local BMC measurements, and their precision errors and ICCs are reported in
Appendix A, Table A.1.

4

5 4. Discussion

In this study, a novel protocol, which can take into account large bone 6 growth, was developed to quantify local bone adaptations over space and time. 7 High precision and reproducibility of the local BMC measurements, calculated 8 through the protocol, were found. Although the reproducibility values cannot be 9 directly migrated to the images obtained from other μ CT systems or other voxel 10 size scans with the same system [Verdelis et al., 2011], this paper proposed a 11 protocol to evaluate local bone adaptations over space and time and this 12 protocol is irrespective of the μ CT systems and μ CT voxel size. 13

The proposed protocol was made efficient by selecting 80% of the tibial length as the VOI to represent the entire tibia. The tibial growth plates were excluded, which not only cause noise and errors in the calculation of BMC, but also impede the automation of the protocol. The BMC was selected as the parameter to quantify local bone adaptation, but other parameters, e.g. periosteal/endocortical perimeters, bone marrow area, etc. [**Bouxsein et al.**, **2010**], can be quantified using the protocol developed in this study.

In this paper, the tibial VOI was partitioned into 40 sub-volumes. Our 21 preliminary investigations showed there was a conflict between the desire to 22 quantify bone adaptation with the highest possible spatial resolution, and the 23 need for highly reproducible measurements. We found that the partitioning 24 proposed is a reasonable compromise between these two conflicting needs and 25 that smaller compartments would provide less reproducible measurements 26 (Table A.2 in the Appendix), and larger compartments would not further reduce 27 it while losing spatial resolution. 28

When investigating bone adaptations using rodents, there are essentially two 1 2 scenarios: the first is that bone undergoes significantly low growth during the experiment (e.g. adult rat or caudal vertebra of adult mouse with the scanning 3 interval of one week) [Altman et al., 2015; Birkhold et al., 2014]. In such case, 4 the voxel difference between the superposed images transformed with the rigid 5 registration [Birkhold et al., 2014; Lambers et al., 2013; Schulte et al., 2011] 6 or the distance vectors between the bone iso-surfaces [Lu et al., 2015] can be 7 interpreted as bone formation and resorption. The second is that bone undergoes 8 continuous relatively large growth (e.g. mouse tibia) during the experiment 9 (Figure 4). In such case, the previous methods would produce erroneous results 10 and the bone changes could be measured by using a full elastic registration 11 approach that could be adapted from [Dall'Ara et al., 2014]) or the affine 12 scaling of anatomically referenced partitioning, which was applied in the 13 current study. Our preliminary investigation (Table A.2 in the Appendix) 14 showed that when using smaller size of compartments over which the BMC is 15 averaged would considerably degrade the reproducibility of the measurements. 16 This strongly suggested that when dealing with the bone with large growth, the 17 image voxel-level comparisons need to be replaced with the protocol proposed 18 in this study, which can take into account the relatively large bone growth. 19

In conclusion, a novel protocol, which can take into account large bone growth, was developed to quantify local bone adaptation over space and time and high reproducibility of the local BMC measurements was found. In the future, the protocol can be used in longitudinal image datasets to quantify local bone adaptation over space and time.

25

26 **Conflict of interest statement**

27 The authors have no conflicts to declare.

1 Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), grant number:NC/K000780/1, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council – MultiSim project, grant number: EP/K03877X/1 and the Chinese Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities, project number: DUT15RC(3)130.

8

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1 **Figure 1.** Overview of the image processing chain in the reproducibility study.

2

Figure 2. Reproducibility of mouse cortical and trabecular parameters (tibial length, tibial cortex BMC, trabecular BMC and tibial morphometric parameters) expressed in precision error as coefficients of variation ($PE_{%CV}$) and the 95% confident intervals ($CI_{95\%}$) shown in terms of error bars, and the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) are reported in square brackets (8 mice and 4 scans per mouse).

9

Figure 3. Reproducibility of the mouse tibial local BMC expressed in mean precision error as coefficients of variation ($PE_{%CV}$) and the 95% confident intervals ($CI_{95\%}$) shown in terms of error bars, the least significant change (LSC) and the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICC) are reported in square brackets (8 mice and 4 scans per mouse) (C01 to C10 corresponds tibial proximal to distal side, see Figure 1e).

16

Figure 4.Superimposition of two mouse tibia sections (a and b) using the rigid registration and visualisation of bone adaptations (d). Over one week, there is little common regions in the trabecular part due to the relatively large growth

Appendix A – the complete statistical data:

To quantify the reproducibility of the variables, in addition to the precisions errors as coefficients of variations ($PE_{\%CV}$) and the intraclass correlation coefficients (ICCs), the precision errors as the standard deviation (PE_{SD}) and confidence intervals (CIs) of $PE_{\%CV}$ were also quantified. The PE_{SD} is defined as below:

7
$$PE_{SD} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{m} SD_j^2/m}$$
(A.1)

8 where, m is the subject number (m = 8 in the current study) and SD_j is the 9 standard deviation of subject *j*.

10 CIs were to determine how accurate the PEs were and were determined for 11 each of the PE_{%CV} values using a chi-squared distribution (χ^2).

12
$$\frac{df}{\chi_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2},df}^{2}} \operatorname{PE}_{\operatorname{\%}\mathrm{CV}^{2}} < \sigma^{2} < \frac{df}{\chi_{\frac{\alpha}{2},df}^{2}} \operatorname{PE}_{\operatorname{\%}\mathrm{CV}^{2}}$$
(A.2)

where, df is the total degrees of freedom (df = 24 in the current study).

The mean \pm SD values of tibial morphometric measurements, global and local BMC measurements, and their precision errors (PE_{SD}, PE_{%CV} and CI_{95%}) and ICCs are reported in **Table A.1**.

The reproducibility data (PE_{%CV} and ICC) for tibial local BMC at smaller 17 compartments (80 compartments: 20 divisions in tibial long axis and 4 divisions 18 in tibial cross-section) are presented in Table A.2. In case of 80 compartments, 19 38 out of 80 regions (47.5%) have PE_{WCV} less than 2% (compared to 60% for 20 the case of 40 compartments), 38 regions (47.5%) between 2% and 3% 21 (compared to 37.5%), and 4 regions (5.0%) over 3% (compared to 2.5%); 59 out 22 of 80 regions (73.75%) have ICCs over 0.90 (compared to 72.5% for the case of 23 40 compartments), 13 regions (16.25%) between 0.80 and 0.90 (compared to 24 22.5%), and 8 regions (10%) below 0.80 (compared to 0.0%). 25

Table A.1. The mean \pm standard deviation (SD) values of the tibial bone mineral content (BMC) (eight mice and four scans for each mouse), of the corresponding reproducibility data (PE_{%CV}: precision error of the coefficient of variation; CI_{95%}: 95% confidence interval of PE_{%CV}; LSC: least significant change for PE_{%CV}; ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient) (C01L, C01A, C01M and C01P represent the lateral, anterior, medial and posterior regions of compartment 01, as shown in **Figure 1**, respectively)

		Mean ± SD	PE (CV%)	Cl _{95%} (%)	LSC (%)	ICC
Tibial length [mm]		16.83 ± 0.17	0.11	0.08 - 0.14	0.13	0.989
Ct.BMC	C [μg ΗΑ]	7753.95 ± 504.26	1.58	1.28 - 2.07	1.82	0.947
Tb.BMC [µg HA]		29.80 ± 6.00	3.04	2.47 - 4.00	3.51	0.979
Morp	Tb.BV/TV [%]	4.80 ± 0.90	3.59	2.92 – 4.73	4.14	0.967
homet ric	Tb.N [1/mm]	2.69 ± 0.322	2.86	2.32 – 3.77	2.30	0.948
param eters	Tb.Th [µm]	45.67 ± 3.424	1.65	1.34 – 2.18	1.90	0.956
Tb.Sp [μm]		380.00 ± 47.41	3.45	2.08-4.54	3.98	0.931
Ct.Th [µm]		172.28 ± 6.54	0.49	0.40 - 0.65	0.56	0.985
C01L		263.73 ± 42.29	2.48	2.01 - 3.26	2.86	0.978
	C02L	207.52 ± 28.90	2.02	1.64 – 2.65	2.33	0.981
	C03L	165.71 ± 26.79	2.45	1.99 – 3.23	2.82	0.979
	C04L	142.94 ± 23.21	3.01 2.45 – 3.97		3.47	0.969
	C05L	156.16 ± 21.63	2.16 1.75 – 2.84		2.49	0.978
	C06L	152.98 ± 18.74	1.98	1.61 – 2.61	2.28	0.976
	C07L	154.78 ± 21.73	3.27	3.27 2.65 - 4.30		0.951
	C08L	133.41 ± 12.09	2.33	1.89 - 3.07	2.67	0.940
	C09L	160.14 ± 9.92	1.98	1.60 - 2.60	2.28	0.907
	C10L	242.07 ± 13.30	2.72	2.21 – 3.59	3.14	0.773
C01A		277.87 ± 22.38	2.43	1.97 – 3.19	2.80	0.917
	C02A	286.81 ± 18.21	1.97	1.60 – 2.59	2.27	0.912
	C03A	306.92 ± 17.81	1.75	1.42 – 2.31	2.02	0.917
C04A		285.71 ± 13.30	1.56	1.27 – 2.06	1.80	0.897

C05A	223.22 ± 11.58	1.57	1.27 – 2.06	1.81	0.917
C06A	173.02 ± 7.52	1.43	1.16 - 1.88	1.65	0.902
C07A	192.22 ± 8.63	1.44	1.17 – 1.90	1.66	0.906
C08A	174.29 ± 12.37	1.96	1.59 – 2.58	2.26	0.931
C09A	147.21 ± 9.13	1.66	1.34 – 2.18	1.91	0.935
C10A	162.73 ± 8.55	1.81	1.47 – 2.39	2.09	0.891
C01M	212.08 ± 18.17	1.74	1.41 – 2.29	2.01	0.963
C02M	205.08 ± 18.01	1.87	1.51 – 2.46	2.16	0.959
C03M	149.70 ± 11.94	2.34	1.90 - 3.08	2.70	0.921
C04M	148.93 ± 8.62	2.38	1.93 – 3.13	2.74	0.845
C05M	155.93 ± 4.01	2.20	1.79 - 2.90	2.54	0.787
C06M	163.93 ± 5.71	1.53	1.24 – 2.01	1.76	0.823
C07M	181.87 ± 12.53	1.68	1.36 – 2.21	1.94	0.946
C08M	165.75 ± 8.87	2.10	1.70 – 2.76	2.42	0.859
C09M	150.99 ± 10.25	1.98	1.61 – 2.61	2.28	0.923
C10M	180.65 ±12.02	2.28	1.85 – 3.00	2.63	0.893
C01P	236.02 ± 23.97	1.79	1.45 – 2.35	2.06	0.972
C02P	234.03 ± 24.08	1.71	1.39 – 2.26	1.97	0.975
C03P	246.84 ± 28.31	1.63	1.32 – 2.14	1.88	0.982
C04P	233.42 ± 21.61	1.46	1.19 – 1.93	1.68	0.977
C05P	190.46 ± 14.83	1.27	1.03 – 1.68	1.46	0.976
C06P	167.41 ± 7.24	1.28	1.04 - 1.68	1.47	0.921
C07P	224.66 ± 11.10	2.16	1.76 – 2.85	2.49	0.824
C08P	190.27 ± 10.96	2.08	1.69 – 2.74	2.40	0.880
C09P	145.36 ± 6.82	1.96	1.59 – 2.58	2.26	0.840
C10P	132.12 ± 10.23	2.28	1.85 - 3.00	2.63	0.921
	C05A C06A C07A C08A C09A C10A C01M C02M C02M C03M C04M C05M C06M C07M C06M C07M C08M C09M C10M C01P C02P C02P C03P C02P C03P C04P C05P C04P C05P C05P C06P C05P C06P C07P C08P C09P C10P	C05A223.22 ± 11.58C06A173.02 ± 7.52C07A192.22 ± 8.63C08A174.29 ± 12.37C09A147.21 ± 9.13C10A162.73 ± 8.55C01M212.08 ± 18.17C02M205.08 ± 18.01C03M149.70 ± 11.94C04M148.93 ± 8.62C05M155.93 ± 4.01C06M163.93 ± 5.71C07M181.87 ± 12.53C08M165.75 ± 8.87C09M150.99 ± 10.25C10M180.65 ±12.02C01P236.02 ± 23.97C02P234.03 ± 24.08C03P246.84 ± 28.31C04P233.42 ± 21.61C05P190.46 ± 14.83C06P167.41 ± 7.24C07P224.66 ± 11.10C08P190.27 ± 10.96C09P145.36 ± 6.82C10P132.12 ± 10.23	C05A223.22 ± 11.581.57C06A173.02 ± 7.521.43C07A192.22 ± 8.631.44C08A174.29 ± 12.371.96C09A147.21 ± 9.131.66C10A162.73 ± 8.551.81C01M212.08 ± 18.171.74C02M205.08 ± 18.011.87C03M149.70 ± 11.942.34C04M148.93 ± 8.622.38C05M155.93 ± 4.012.20C06M163.93 ± 5.711.53C07M181.87 ± 12.531.68C08M165.75 ± 8.872.10C09M150.99 ± 10.251.98C10M180.65 ±12.022.28C01P236.02 ± 23.971.79C02P234.03 ± 24.081.71C03P246.84 ± 28.311.63C04P233.42 ± 21.611.46C05P190.46 ± 14.831.27C06P167.41 ± 7.241.28C07P224.66 ± 11.102.16C08P190.27 ± 10.962.08C09P145.36 ± 6.821.96C10P132.12 ± 10.232.28	C05A223.22 ± 11.581.571.27 - 2.06C06A173.02 ± 7.521.431.16 - 1.88C07A192.22 ± 8.631.441.17 - 1.90C08A174.29 ± 12.371.961.59 - 2.58C09A147.21 ± 9.131.661.34 - 2.18C10A162.73 ± 8.551.811.47 - 2.39C01M212.08 ± 18.171.741.41 - 2.29C02M205.08 ± 18.011.871.51 - 2.46C03M149.70 ± 11.942.341.90 - 3.08C04M148.93 ± 8.622.381.93 - 3.13C05M155.93 ± 4.012.201.79 - 2.90C06M163.93 ± 5.711.531.24 - 2.01C07M181.87 ± 12.531.681.36 - 2.21C08M165.75 ± 8.872.101.70 - 2.76C09M150.99 ± 10.251.981.61 - 2.61C10M180.65 ±12.022.281.85 - 3.00C01P236.02 ± 23.971.791.45 - 2.35C02P234.03 ± 24.081.711.39 - 2.26C03P246.84 ± 28.311.631.32 - 2.14C04P233.42 ± 21.611.461.19 - 1.93C05P190.46 ± 14.831.271.03 - 1.68C07P224.66 ± 11.102.161.76 - 2.85C08P190.27 ± 10.962.081.69 - 2.74C09P145.36 ± 6.821.961.59 - 2.58C10P132.12 ± 10.232.281.85 - 3.00	C05A223.22 ± 11.581.571.27 - 2.061.81C06A173.02 ± 7.521.431.16 - 1.881.65C07A192.22 ± 8.631.441.17 - 1.901.66C08A174.29 ± 12.371.961.59 - 2.582.26C09A147.21 ± 9.131.661.34 - 2.181.91C10A162.73 ± 8.551.811.47 - 2.392.09C01M212.08 ± 18.171.741.41 - 2.292.01C02M205.08 ± 18.011.871.51 - 2.462.16C03M149.70 ± 11.942.341.90 - 3.082.70C04M148.93 ± 8.622.381.93 - 3.132.74C05M155.93 ± 4.012.201.79 - 2.902.54C06M163.93 ± 5.711.531.24 - 2.011.76C07M181.87 ± 12.531.681.36 - 2.211.94C08M165.75 ± 8.872.101.70 - 2.762.42C09M150.99 ± 10.251.981.61 - 2.612.28C10M180.65 ± 12.022.281.85 - 3.002.63C01P236.02 ± 23.971.791.45 - 2.352.06C02P234.03 ± 24.081.711.39 - 2.261.97C03P246.84 ± 28.311.631.32 - 2.141.88C04P233.42 ± 21.611.461.19 - 1.931.68C05P190.46 ± 14.831.271.03 - 1.681.47C07P224.66 ± 11.102.161.76 - 2.852.49C08P190.27 ± 10.96

Table A.2. Reproducibility data (PE_{%CV}: precision error of the coefficient of
variation and ICC: intraclass correlation coefficient) for tibial local BMC [μg
HA] at smaller compartments (80 compartments: 20 divisions in tibial long axis
and 4 divisions in tibial cross-section)

	Lateral		Anterior		Medial		Posterior	
Compartment	PE (CV%)	ICC	PE (CV%)	ICC	PE (CV%)	ICC	PE (CV%)	ICC
C01	2.76	0.973	2.48	0.914	1.92	0.961	1.82	0.971

C02	2.16	0.985	2.41	0.930	1.64	0.966	1.79	0.973
C03	2.05	0.982	2.10	0.929	1.71	0.971	1.78	0.965
C04	1.99	0.979	1.86	0.907	2.24	0.952	1.68	0.981
C05	2.23	0.980	1.80	0.931	2.39	0.878	1.63	0.982
C06	2.77	0.977	1.79	0.908	2.40	0.947	1.64	0.982
C07	3.25	0.967	1.64	0.907	2.40	0.889	1.52	0.978
C08	2.81	0.970	1.58	0.905	2.59	0.794	1.49	0.975
C09	2.25	0.977	1.54	0.925	2.46	0.507	1.35	0.980
C10	2.09	0.979	1.64	0.909	2.04	0.559	1.23	0.968
C11	2.00	0.977	1.56	0.906	1.64	0.757	1.27	0.914
C12	1.97	0.977	1.34	0.900	1.50	0.873	1.30	0.941
C13	2.98	0.955	1.85	0.874	1.88	0.927	3.31	0.916
C14	3.75	0.944	1.47	0.955	1.76	0.955	2.08	0.903
C15	2.61	0.950	1.81	0.948	1.92	0.909	2.34	0.910
C16	2.25	0.915	2.28	0.896	2.58	0.767	2.12	0.754
C17	2.14	0.925	1.98	0.920	2.29	0.905	2.25	0.803
C18	2.33	0.838	1.61	0.939	2.19	0.909	1.98	0.837
C19	2.48	0.859	2.08	0.890	2.49	0.886	2.07	0.935
C20	3.13	0.668	1.88	0.889	2.40	0.879	2.61	0.906









Tibia section at 13 week-old



Tibia section at 14 week-old

Rigid registration

(c)



Superimposed tibia sections

Boolean operations

(d)



