



Images in Clinical Medicine



A



B

*Blue Sclerae in Osteogenesis Imperfecta*

A 26-year-old woman (Panel A) and her 6-year-old daughter (Panel B) were evaluated for recurrent bone fractures. Both had blue sclerae. The mother had had a femoral-neck fracture at the age of 3 years and fractures of the elbow and wrist at the age of 10 and 13 years, respectively. All fractures occurred after minimal trauma. The mother also had progressive hearing loss and had lost nearly all her upper and lower molars. Her medical history was otherwise normal. She was short (147 cm) and had no overt skeletal deformities. Biochemical markers of bone metabolism were in the normal range. The bone mineral density of the lumbar spine and the femoral neck was decreased, as was the total-body measurement. The six-year-old daughter had had tibial fractures at the ages of two, three, and six years. Another daughter, who was three years old and also had blue sclerae, had not had any fractures. The woman's father, one brother, an uncle, and a nephew also had striking blue sclerae and a history of multiple fractures.

GUDRUN LEIDIG-BRUCKNER, M.D.  
ANDREAS GRAUER, M.D.

*University of Heidelberg  
69115 Heidelberg, Germany*

©1998, Massachusetts Medical Society.