

# ONJ UPDATE 2024

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### Abstract Submission FORM

#### DENTAL CHECK-UPS AND THERAPY FOR BONE METASTASES: INFORMATION AND INVOLVMENT OF CANCER PATIENTS

SECTION: 3A

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#### Background.

Patients with bone metastases treated with denosumab or bisphosphonates should be informed about dental side effects and the need for appropriate dental checkups. However, there are few data on the informations received by patients on this topic.

#### Patients and methods.

ROPI (Rete Oncologica Pazienti Italia) conducted from 02/2022 to 08/2022 an anonymous survey (29 questions) in patients with bone metastases from solid tumors to assess the degree of information received about bone metastases, skeletal complications, specific therapy for bone metastases and dental check-ups.

#### Results.

Analysis of 351 questionnaires showed that more than 70% of patients claimed to have been “fairly/well” informed about bone metastases and skeletal complications. More than 80% of patients reported being on specific treatment for bone metastases: 48% with denosumab and 46% with zoledronic acid.

Some questions assessed dental check-ups before starting therapy for bone metastases and during therapy and the frequency. On question “If you are undergoing therapy for bone metastases, did you have an X-ray orthopantomogram and a dental examination before starting therapy?”, 93% of the 316 patients stated that they did.

On question “Have you received information regarding periodic dental check-ups to be carried out during therapy for bone metastases?”, 78% of 334 responding patients said they had received information.

On question “If you are undergoing treatment for bone metastases, do you have regular dental check-ups?”, 72% of 311 responding patients stated that they perform periodic dental check-ups during therapy for bone metastases.

Table 1 shows the percentages of metastatic patients who reported performing/not performing periodic dental check-ups in relation to patient age, cancer, and type of drug administered for bone metastases. The analysis of these data showed that periodic dental check-ups were performed during therapy for bone metastases mainly by younger patients (92%), breast cancer patients (77%) and patients on denosumab therapy (85%). In contrast, fewer periodic procedures were performed by patients  $\geq 60$  years of age (65%), patients with prostate cancer (52%) and patients on zoledronic acid therapy (62%).

On question “If you have regular dental check-ups, how often do you do them?”, 69% of 221 responding patients stated that they undergo periodic dental check-ups every 3-6 months.

Periodic dental check-ups	YES	NO
All patients (N=311)	72%	28%
<b>Age</b>		
18-39 years	92%	8%
40-59 years	78%	22%
$\geq 60$ years	65%	35%
<b>Cancer</b>		
Breast	77%	23%
Prostate	52%	48%
Lung	60%	40%
Other	68%	32%
<b>Drug for bone metastases</b>		
Zoledronic acid	62%	38%
Denosumab	85%	15%
Other bisphosphonates	75%	25%

#### Conclusions.

The results of this survey showed that the majority of patients received correct information also on dental check-ups before and during therapy for bone metastases with consequent possibility of reducing dental complications.