

# ONJ UPDATE 2024

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### Abstract Submission FORM

**MRONJ IN PATIENTS WITH OSTEOPOROSIS AND NON-MALIGNANT DISEASES: 184 CASES IN A REGIONAL NETWORK EXPERIENCE**

SECTION: 1C - *Osteoporosis and non-malignant diseases*

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**Background.** Medication-related osteonecrosis of jaw (MRONJ) is a severe adverse drug effect, consisting of progressive bone destruction in the maxillofacial region, mostly caused by antiresorptive agents - including bisphosphonates and denosumab- and/or by antiangiogenic drugs<sup>1</sup>. Antiresorptive agents, also known as Bone Modifying Agents (BMAs) have demonstrated efficacy in limiting the osteolysis that occurs in many disorders characterized by increased bone resorption, including bone metastases and bone metabolic disorders. Incidence and/or prevalence of MRONJ in these categories of patients remain uncertain, with lack of solid epidemiologic data in large populations. As an almost unique experience, the aim of this work is to retrospectively describe number of registered cases and main features of MRONJ cases observed at main hospital oral care centres, in a time span of 15 years (2007-2021), in patients with non-malignant diseases, and observed in Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta territory (4.4 million inhabitants).

**Patients and methods.** Data were retrospectively collected from Oral Medicine, Oral Surgery and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Units, from January 1st 2007, to 31st December 2021. The main parameters collected were: sex; age of patients at MRONJ diagnosis time; main disease for which BMAs were prescribed; received treatment: either bisphosphonates alone, or denosumab (60 mg q6 months), or bisphosphonate(s)/denosumab sequence; localization of MRONJ (mandibular and/or maxillary involvement).

**Results.** Over the 2007-2021 timespan, data from 184 patients were acquired; 173 (97.3%) were females; mean age was 75 years (range 37-94; standard deviation 9.81). Underlying disease was reported as osteoporosis in 161 (88%) patients, rheumatoid arthritis in 9 (5%), osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis in 8 (4%), or other bone disorders in 6 (3%), including lupus, Paget's disease, giant cell arthritis, etc.

Out of 184, 149 patients (81%) were treated with only one drug and 35 patients (19%) were treated with two BMAs in sequence.

In patients receiving one drug, the bisphosphonates most administered were alendronate (94), ibandronate (22) and risedronate (10). Ten patients were related to denosumab alone; the remaining 13 cases received clodronate, or neridronate, or pamidronate, or zoledronic acid alone.

In patients receiving sequence of drugs, the most used association were: alendronate followed by denosumab (10 cases), alendronate and ibandronate (5), and denosumab with ibandronate (5); the remaining cases were related to different combination of bisphosphonates with another bisphosphonate (12) or with denosumab (3).

Sites of MRONJ were in mandible (68.5%), maxilla (24.5%), or maxillary and mandible (7%).

Throughout the 15 years period of investigation, an increasing trend emerged, with a median of 11.5 (range 0-14) yearly MRONJ cases in the 2007-2014 period, increased to 17 (range 7-21) yearly MRONJ reported events in the 2015-2021 period.

**Conclusions.** MRONJ cases observed our oral care centres increased in frequency over the last 15 years among patients affected by bone metabolic disorders. Further studies are warranted to investigate the incidence and prevalence of MRONJ in patients undergoing low-dose bisphosphonates and low-dose denosumab.

\*On behalf of oral care centers of: Turin, Novara, Alessandria, Asti, Cuneo, Orbassano, Aosta, Casale Monferrato, Vercelli

**REFERENCES:**

1. Bedogni et al. *Qeios* 2023 at [www.qeios.com/read/PBUJ6Z](http://www.qeios.com/read/PBUJ6Z)

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