

Review of: "Italian Position Paper (SIPMO-SICMF) on Medication-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ)"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I agree that staging of MRONJ should not rely on clinical manifestations alone and should include radiological findings.

But I have some comments:

1. This system is based on radiologic findings and therefore explanation of stages should be based on that, clinical signs and symptoms can not specify the stage so there is no need to mention them in every stage.
2. As mentioned in the manuscript: "FOCAL MRONJ: presence of at least 1 clinical sign/symptom and increased bone density limited to the alveolar process at CT, w/ or w/o additional radiological signs." This stage of focal MRONJ could be also asymptomatic and no obvious clinical signs. So (at least 1 clinical sign/symptom) has to be exchanged with (with or without clinical sign/symptom).
3. To ease understanding of the suggested staging system, only the specific characteristics of each stage should be mentioned. So for stage 2 for example, the following CT findings: "CT signs: diffuse bone marrow sclerosis, w/ or w/o cortical erosion, osteolytic changes, thickening of the alveolar ridge, thickening of the lamina dura, persistent post-extraction socket, periodontal space widening, thickening of the inferior alveolar nerve canal, sequester formation, periosteal reaction, and opacified maxillary sinus" should be limited only to those characteristic to stage 2 "i.e: periosteal reaction, and opacified maxillary sinus".
4. I suggest defining each stage. stage 1: MRONJ limited to alveolar process, stage 2: MRONJ extending to basal bone of the jaws, stage 3: MRONJ complicated by pathological fracture or extension to the adjacent structures (adjacent bones or maxillary sinus),
5. Table 7: mentioned in the bullet points: "In patients receiving Xgeva®, 6-month temporary DMB interruption is required before surgery": this 6 months drug holiday was specified based on which evidence? and when can Xgeva be restarted after surgical treatment? On the contrary, there is another suggested drug holiday of 3 weeks was mentioned for Xgeva® in table 6.