

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.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review the Italian position paper on MRONJ.

I agree with your point of view that AAOMS disregard radiological findings in the Staging of MRONJ. I respect your previous work on CT-based Staging. However, it seems to me that CT-based Staging still has some difficult issues to resolve.

First, the presence of long-term chronic periodontitis can cause sclerotic changes in the alveolar or basal bone, even without a history of BMA use. Is there a possibility of an overestimation effect on MRONJ staging if such imaging findings are already present prior to the use of BMA?

Second, the CT coronal image Figure 2(d) of your representative case of Stage 1 appears to show a progressive increase in mandibular bone density up to the level of the mandibular canal. Is this consistent with the Stage 1 definition of increased bone density confined to the alveolar process?

Third, in edentulous patients with significant atrophic changes in the mandible, is there any confusion over classification as stage 1 or stage 2?

Forth, the degree of the bone density increase can be evaluated by coronal imaging, such as "limited to the alveolar process" in Stage 1, "extending to the basal bone" in Stage 2. However, there seems to be no indication of the extent of progression in the axial imaging.

From the above, I believe that oral surgeons or diagnostic radiologists may need calibration training with a significant amount of radiological imaging in order to perform accurate staging.

If you develop a calibration training program for accurate staging diagnosis is expected to lead to further dissemination of the SIPMO-SICMF staging method.

I basically agree with your suggestion that patients receiving Xgeva® require a temporary DMB interruption of 6 months before surgery. Do you consider a uniform 6-month withdrawal to be necessary or sufficient, regardless of how long Xgeva® has been used (e.g. 10 months or 80 months)?