

The multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of Medication-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ). A qualitative study into the attitudes and perceptions of general dental practitioners (MRONJ-GDP)

Topic Guide

This study aims to explore the attitudes and perceptions of general dental practitioners towards the multidisciplinary prevention of medication related osteonecrosis of the jaw.

The following guide outlines the key areas for exploration during the interview.

Aims and objectives

- To explore the attitudes towards and perceptions of general dental practitioners, on the risks of medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw.
- To explore the attitudes towards and perceptions of general dental practitioners on patient counselling and referral to a dental professional, by general medical practitioners and community pharmacists, for patients both newly started and established on medications associated with MRONJ
- To explore any perceived barriers or enablers to optimising the management of this patient group.

Introduction

Aim: To introduce the research and set the context for the proceeding discussion

- Introduce self: University of Sunderland, MRONJ-GDP study, why I am here
- Introduce the study: what it is about
- Talk through key points
 - This will be a conversation where I will ask you questions
 - It will last between 30 and 60 minutes
 - There are no right or wrong answers
 - You don't have to answer all of the questions if you don't want to, just let me know that you want to move on
 - Participation is voluntary and participant can withdraw at any time
- Confidentiality/ anonymity
 - Transcripts will be anonymised
 - In report writing, any quotes won't be identified as being you
- The interview will be audio recorded
 - The recording will be kept secure, only accessed by the four researchers working on the project, and will be kept for 2 years as per policy
- This piece of paper is just to help me remember what questions I want to ask you, and I may make some brief notes during the interview to remind me to go back to something you said later on if that's ok
- Does the participant have any questions?

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All Participants

Background of participant

Prompts: age, employment, experience, undergraduate training, postgraduate training

Are you aware of the risk of ONJ associated with certain medicines?

Prompts: which medicines, have you encountered patients with MRONJ, implications of this on patients, do you see this as an important issue in practice, risk factors

How do you approach the management of a patient prescribed a bisphosphonate or other MRONJ associated medicine

Prompts: med hx, counselling advice, referral, preventative work before initiation, ongoing management medical/legal implications

Are you aware of any guidance for general dental practitioners on the prevention and management of MRONJ?

Prompts: national/local guidelines, referral pathways

Patient knowledge of MRONJ risk?

Prompt: Have patients raised concerns regarding MRONJ risk, who/how informed of risk, influence on management

The role of the GP/prescriber when starting new medicines and as part of the multidisciplinary team

Prompts: experiences, roles, expectations

The role of the pharmacist when starting new medicines and as part of the multidisciplinary team

Prompts: experiences, role, expectations, MUR/NMS

The role of the dentist within this team?

Prompts: experiences, role, expectations

The role of the patient in this team

Prompts: roles and responsibilities, expectations

Communication or referral from prescribers/pharmacists?

Prompt: Has this happened, should it happen, could this improve prevention, barriers, facilitators

Any barriers or facilitators to improving prevention and management?

Prompts: access to dentists, charges, fear, risk of non-compliance, communication

Anything further to discuss?

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Next steps

- Thank the participant
- Do they have any remaining questions about the research
- Reassurance around confidentiality and anonymity