



# Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw incidence in patients exposed concomitantly to bone resorption inhibitors and vascular endothelial growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors: is it generalizable to all solid tumors?

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To the Editor,

I wish to congratulate van Cann and their colleagues [1] in which they investigated medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ) incidence in patients exposed concomitantly to bone resorption inhibitors (BRIs) and vascular endothelial growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors (VEGFR-TKIs). They concluded that patients receiving concomitant treatment with VEGFR-TKIs and BRIs have a five to ten times higher risk for development of MRONJ compared to patients treated with BRIs alone. However, 86.7 and of 1.9% of all patients in study group (BRIs + VEGFR-TKIs) and control groups (BRIs only) were diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma, respectively. Therefore, it is not generalizable to conclude that concomitant treatment with VEGFR-TKIs and BRIs increase MRONJ incidence in all solid tumors. Actually, incidence

rates of MRONJ in both control and study arms were almost similar (10.9 vs. 11.1%,  $p = 0.95$ ) in the longer follow-up.

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The author has no conflict of interest.

## Reference

1. van Cann T, Loyson T, Verbiest A, Clement PM, Bechter O, Willems L et al (2018) Incidence of medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw in patients treated with both bone resorption inhibitors and vascular endothelial growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors. *Support Care Cancer* 26(3):869–878

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