

The multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of bisphosphonate related osteonecrosis of the jaw (BRONJ). A Qualitative study into the attitudes and perceptions of patients (MAP-BRONJ)

Topic Guide

This study aims to explore the attitudes and perceptions of patients towards the multidisciplinary prevention of bisphosphonate related osteonecrosis of the jaw.

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

Aims and objectives

To explore the attitudes and perceptions of patients towards the roles of the pharmacist, general practitioner and dentist in the prevention of Bisphosphonate Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (BRONJ).

To explore the barriers or enablers to optimising the risk prevention of BRONJ

To explore the attitudes and perceptions of patients about their broader priorities during counselling on medication

Introduction

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

- Introduce self: University of Sunderland, MAP-BRONJ study, why I am here
- Introduce the study: what it is about, who it is funded by
- 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 10 years as per policy
- I've brought the voucher for participation with me, so I'll give that to you after the interview
- 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, PMx, DHx, dental history, regular pharmacy, regular GP

When you have been started on a new medicine, what do you want to know

Prompts: priorities, side-effects, risks, indications, benefit, decision making process

The role of the GP when starting new medicines

Prompts: experiences, role, expectations

The role of the pharmacist when starting new medicines

Prompts: experiences, role, expectations, MUR/NMS

Osteonecrosis of the jaw has been associated with bisphosphonate therapy. It can be difficult to treat and in many cases potentially preventable, the most recent guidelines recommend that healthcare professionals should work together to do this. Ideally patients should be dentally fit before starting these medicines and should have any dental work carried out before starting treatment and maintain good dental health while taking these drugs.

All Participants

The role of the GP in this team

Prompts: role, responsibilities, expectations

The role of the pharmacist in this team

Prompts: role, responsibilities, expectations, MUR/NMS

The role of the dentist in this team

Prompts: experiences with dentists, role of the dentist, expectations

The role of the patient in this team

Prompts: roles and responsibilities, expectations

The role of the multidisciplinary team

Prompts: expectations, leadership, communication

Any barriers or facilitators to this from happening

Prompts: access to dentists, charges, fear, communication

Would this influence (or have influenced) your decision to take this medicine

Prompts: why, risk of not taking, balance risk

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Patients with osteoporosis only

Tell me about your experiences of osteoporosis

Prompts: symptoms, diagnosis, management

Are you aware of the drugs that can be used to help patients with osteoporosis

Prompts: Who told you, offered drugs?

Patients prescribed bisphosphonates only

Tell me about your experiences of taking bisphosphonates

Prompts: indication, history, administration, side-effects, efficacy

Were you aware that this condition was a potential side-effect of one of your medicines

Prompts: was this risk explained to you, who by, when

Did you have a dental check-up prior to treatment

Prompts: Was work carried out, advice given, was the dentist aware of the risk

Do you maintain regular dental check-ups

Prompts: Frequency, does the dentist know you're on a bisphosphonate,

Patients with a diagnosis of BRONJ only

Tell me about your experiences of taking bisphosphonates

Prompts: indication, history, administration, side-effects, efficacy

Tell me about your diagnosis of osteonecrosis of the jaw

Prompts: presentation, diagnosis, management, current management

Tell me about how osteonecrosis of the jaw has affected your life

Prompts: impact on daily activities, pain, discomfort, ongoing management, psychological impact

Were you aware that this condition was a potential side-effect of one of your medicines

Prompts: was this risk explained to you, who by

Should you have been aware of this risk with this medicine

Prompts: should you have been, would you still have taken this medicine, how/who should make you aware of this



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Next steps

- Thank the participant
- Do they have any remaining questions about the research
- Reassurance around confidentiality and anonymity
- Would they like their GP to be informed about their participation in the interview
- Provide with gift voucher
- If not, would they like to be informed about the outcomes of the research, and if so method for doing this