DENTIST'S LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING MEDICATION-RELATED OSTEONECROSIS OF THE JAW (MRONJ)

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Oral Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

Bisphosphonates have been widely used for the treatment of onco-hematological diseases that presents high rates of bone metastases and osteoporosis. Although this therapeutic modality has contributed to the improvement in quality of life and survival of patients, MRONJ is an important cause of morbidity. The diagnosis and strategies of support and prevention of MRONJs are of competence of the dental team. Although MRONJ was described 15 years ago, little knowledge is observed about its possible side effect in the oral cavity.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the present study was to evaluate the knowledge of dentists on MRONJ, identifying the drugs and the possible adverse effects in the oral cavity.

METHODS

A questionnaire was applied for 500 dentists, divided into three sections:

- 1) Professional profile
- 2) Knowledge on antiresorptive (AR), as bisphosphonates, or other antiangiogenic drugs (AA)
- 3) Familiarity with approaches prevention

RESULTS

Among the 500 dentists interviewed, 175 (35%) were general practitioners and 325 (65%) were specialists, of which 65 have more than one specialty. It is important to point out that only 10 dentists had expertise in Oral Surgery, Oral Pathology or Oral Medicine. Sixty-six percent of the total have more than 5 years graduated.

CONCLUSION

Knowledge about MRONJ and its dental preventive measures by dentists are not sufficient. Thus, it is clear the need to improve the training of dentists, as well as the establishment of measures of continuing education, so that the dentists will know how to recognize patient at risk for MRONJ.

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RESULTS - GRAPHS