# It's important to take care of your mouth while treating cancer

Maintaining good oral hygiene may help reduce your risk of developing ONJ.¹ONJ stands for osteonecrosis (OSS•tee•oh•ne•KRO•sis) of the jaw. It involves severe bone damage in and around the jaw area.<sup>2</sup>

#### What are some of the risk factors for ONJ?

- Tooth extraction<sup>3</sup>
- Dental implants<sup>3</sup>
- Gingivitis or inflammatory dental disease1
- Use of dentures or other dental appliances<sup>2,3</sup>

#### What are some of the signs and symptoms of ONJ?

- Soft tissue swelling and redness<sup>4</sup>
- Loose teeth<sup>4</sup>
- Jaw pain<sup>4</sup>
- Infection of gums or jaw<sup>2</sup>
- Slow healing after dental work<sup>2</sup>



Notify your physician right away if you experience any of these signs and symptoms

Keeping up with good oral hygiene may help reduce the risk of ONJ

What are some of the ways I can help keep my mouth healthy?

For good oral hygiene, the American Dental Association suggests that you<sup>5</sup>:

- Brush twice daily

- Rinse with fluoride
  Visit your dentist regularly





Remember to tell your dentist that you are taking a bone-targeting medicine at each visit

### **PRACTICING GOOD MOUTH CARE &** VISITING THE DENTIST REGULARLY

MAY HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF ONJ



Consult your healthcare professional before receiving any major dental work<sup>1,2</sup>

Fill out the card on the right and give it to your dentist at your next appointment.

Discover more bone-related health tips at

www.letstalkbonemets.com

**References: 1.** Ruggiero SL, Dodson TB, Fantasia J, et al. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons position paper on medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw—2014 update. *J Oral Maxillofac Surg.* 2014;72(10):1938-1956. **2.** XGEVA\* (denosumab) prescribing information, Amgen. **3.** Yamashita J, McCauley LK. Antiresorptives and osteonecrosis of the jaw. *J Evid Based Dent Pract.* 2012;12(suppl 1):233-247. **4.** Campisi G, Fedele S, Fusco V, et al. Epidemiology, clinical manifestations, risk reduction and treatment strategies of jaw osteonecrosis in cancer patients exposed to antiresorptive agents. *Future Oncol.* 2014;10(2):257-275. **5.** American Dental Association. Healthy habits. American Dental Association Web site. http://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/adults-over-60/healthy-habits. Accessed August 17, 2020.



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