This reminder card contains important safety information that you need to be aware of before and during treatment with zoledronic acid (ZOMETA®) injections, used to prevent or delay skeletal complications due to bone metastases from different types of tumors

## **OSTEONECROSIS OF THE JAW (ONJ)**

You have been prescribed zoledronic acid (ZOMETA®) injections by your doctor.

A side effect called osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) (bone damage in the jaw) has been reported uncommonly in patients receiving zoledronic acid (ZOMETA®) injections.

In order to reduce the risk of developing ONJ, there are some precautions you should take:

## **Before starting treatment:**

- Ask your doctor to tell you about ONJ before you start treatment
- Check with your doctor whether a dental examination is necessary before you start treatment with zoledronic acid (ZOMETA®) and inform your dental provider that you are going to be starting treatment with zoledronic acid
- Tell your doctor/nurse (health care field professional)
  if you have any problems with your mouth or teeth

This material was developed by Novartis, as part of the risk minimization plan for ZOMETA® drug. This material is not intended for promotional use.

Information for patients using Zometa can be found at the following link:

http://pharm.cals.am/pharm/drug\_images/index.php

The potential risk of developing osteonecrosis of the jaw is higher in patients with gum disease, who have undergone tooth extraction. The above risk is also more likely among smokers and people receiving various cancer treatments.

## While being treated:

- You should maintain good oral hygiene, make sure your dentures fit properly and receive routine dental checkups
- If you are under dental treatment or will undergo dental surgery (e.g., tooth extractions), inform your doctor and tell your dentist that you are being treated with zoledronic acid (ZOMETA®)
- Contact your doctor and dentist immediately if you experience any problems with your mouth or teeth, such as loose teeth, pain or swelling, non-healing of sores or discharge, as these could be signs of osteonecrosis of the jaw

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Read the package leaflet of the medication for further information.

Information is designated for healthcare professionals only. Published within the framework of risk management program. Not an advertisement. Healthcare professionals can report any adverse effects online to the Scientific Centre of Drug and Medical Technology Expertise after academician E. Gabrielyan of MoH of RA via <a href="www.pharm.am">www.pharm.am</a>, contact via vigilance@pharm.am e-mail or call the hotline number: (+374 0) 20 05 05 and contact Novartis Company via <a href="drugsafety.cis@novartis.com">drugsafety.cis@novartis.com</a> e-mail.

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