How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to prevent bone fractures; also decreases high amounts of calcium in the blood

Things that may occur during or within hours of treatment

1. You may have redness or burning where the drug is being given in your vein.

2. You may have a fever, flu-like symptoms, or headache but these are often mild (more likely to occur with the first dose).

3. You may feel pain in your bones, joints or muscles. If this bothers you, ask your doctor or nurse what type of drugs you may use to help with this pain.

4. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also be helpful in maintaining your energy.

5. Rarely, a breakdown of the bone in the jaw (called osteonecrosis) may occur. Please let your dentist know you are taking this drug before you have any work done.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you take other medications. Please talk with your doctor or nurse if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your health care team.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your health care team right away.