How drug is given: by vein (IV)

Purpose: to prevent bone fractures and decrease pain. It 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 (more likely to occur with the first dose and may occur within the first 3 days after receiving the drug).

3. Bone pain may occur because the drug is working inside your bones. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or other pain relievers may help.

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

5. Mild constipation may occur after treatment begins. Please increase your fluid intake and increase fiber in your diet by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. A daily stool softener, such as docusate (Colace®) and/or laxatives such as senna (Senakot®), may be helpful. If these do not help within 48 hours, tell your doctor or nurse. Do not use bulk forming laxatives such as Metamucil® without talking with your doctor or nurse.

6. 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.