

INTERNATIONAL DENTISTRY – AFRICAN EDITION: ETHICS 2025

Please note: More than one answer may be applicable

QUESTIONNAIRE 1

The impact of digital transformation on data security, privacy and confidentiality – Human rights, legal and ethical considerations.

Johan Hartshorne

- Digital transformation is redefining the following aspects of dentistry?**
 - Dental care delivery
 - Patient outcomes
 - Operational efficiency
 - Patient-dentist interaction and experience
 - All of above
- Which of the following characteristics relating to 'Privacy' are TRUE?**
 - Privacy pertains to information
 - Privacy is not a patients' right
 - Refers to an individuals' right to control access to their personal information
 - Privacy is a broader concept than confidentiality
 - A state of being free from public attention
- Which of the following characteristics relating to 'Confidentiality' are TRUE?**
 - Confidentiality pertains to people
 - Duty to protect personal information shared
 - Obligation not to disclose information to unauthorised third parties
 - Is an ethical obligation
 - Is not a legal obligation
- Privacy and confidentiality are essential for fostering trust between patients and health care providers (TRUE or FALSE?)**
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Which of the following statements regarding the 'Human Rights' framework for privacy and confidentiality are TRUE?**
 - Human Rights are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
 - The National Patient's Rights Charter is the common standard for achieving the realization of patients right's
 - The are no limitations on confidentiality
 - A patients personal information can be disclosed without consent
 - A patients medical information cannot be disclosed without consent
- The National Health Act (Act No.61 of 2003) mandates that healthcare providers keep patient information confidential in which the following explicit circumstances?**
 - With the patients' expressed consent
 - Legally authorized or required to protect public health
 - When necessary for the proper treatment of the patient
 - With a written consent of a parent or guardian of a minor < 12yrs
 - All of above
- Which of the following statements relating to The Protection of Personal Information Act ('POPI Act') are TRUE?**
 - Designed to protect personal information
 - Enforces the Constitutional right to privacy
 - Brings South African law in line with global standards for data protection and privacy
 - Give individuals the right to access and correct their information
 - None of above
- The purpose of the POPI Act is to provide for the rights of persons regarding unsolicited electronic communication and automated decision-making, and to regulate the flow of personal information. (TRUE or FALSE?)**
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- The ethical basis for confidentiality of personal information rests on which of the following ethical principles?**
 - Autonomy
 - Non-maleficence
 - Beneficence
 - Fairness
 - All of above
- Which of the following key strategies for protecting data security, privacy, and confidentiality are TRUE?**
 - Comply with HPCSA Ethical Guidelines
 - Confirm the identity of patients or authorized healthcare partners before sharing sensitive information
 - Secure storage and access to patients records
 - Share and publish patient information on social media
 - Dental assistants and receptionists are not held responsible for confidentiality of patient information in the performance of their duties

QUESTIONNAIRE 2

Principles and practice of ethically responsible implant dentistry.

Johan Hartshorne

- Practicing ethically responsible implant dentistry is important for?**
 - Upholding professional standards
 - Strengthens professional reputation
 - Ensures patient safety
 - Fosters trust
 - All of above
- The estimated prevalence of peri-implant disease ranging between 19% and 65% poses a significant challenge to dental practitioners for long-term implant maintenance. (TRUE or FALSE?)**
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Which of the following risk factors are associated with a higher probability of implant failures?**
 - Type I and II bone density in the mandible
 - Uncontrolled periodontitis
 - Active smoking
 - Inadequate bone thickness and vascularization
 - Surgical site infection
- Which of the following ethical principles play a critical role in guiding clinical decision-making and ensuring patient-centered care?**
 - Beneficence
 - Non-maleficence
 - Autonomy
 - Veracity
 - All of above
- Which of the following ethical responsibilities regarding appropriate knowledge and skills competency requirements for implant dentistry are TRUE?**
 - Formal education
 - Continuous professional development and hands-on training
 - Practice management
 - Caries detection diagnostic tools
 - Prevention and management of complications
- Which of the following ethical responsibilities relating to pre-operative risk assessment and treatment planning are TRUE?**
 - Comprehensive medical and dental history
 - Identification of risk factors
 - Magnetic resonance imaging
 - Smoking cessation
 - Appropriateness of treatment or referral
- Which of the following ethical responsibilities relating to informed consent are TRUE?**
 - Disclosure of information that is in the practitioners best interest
 - Disclosure of alternative options are not required
 - Provide truthful information about the scope of the procedure, benefits, potential complications, and costs
 - All discussions should be fully documented
 - Discuss requirements for aftercare and ongoing maintenance
- Which of the following ethical responsibilities relating to surgical risk management and safety protocols are TRUE?**
 - Accurate pre-surgical planning
 - Following a sterile protocol
 - Biological and restorative driven surgical technique
 - Proper implant selection and flap design
 - All of above
- Which of the following ethical responsibilities relating post-operative care and maintenance are TRUE?**
 - Provide clear verbal and written post-operative and maintenance instructions
 - Provide routine antibiotic prophylaxis for dental implant surgery in healthy patients
 - Regular monitoring and reinforcing oral hygiene compliance
 - Schedule regular follow-up visits depending on the patients' risk profile
 - Maintain thorough documentation of clinical records with baseline and follow-up data
- Which of the following statements regarding legal obligations and good practices in implant dentistry are TRUE?**
 - Business principles governs the standard of practice
 - Standards for good practice are embodied in ethical codes or guidelines developed by the HPCSA
 - Failure to meet the ethical guidelines of the HPCSA can result in malpractice claims and damage to professional reputation
 - Engaging in CPD is crucial to mitigate legal risks and to minimize professional liability
 - Professional indemnity insurance is legally mandated in South Africa

QUESTIONNAIRE 3

Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ): New insights on ethically responsible risk preventive strategies.

Part 1: Current knowledge and controversial issues.

Johan Hartshorne/Johan Kotzé

- Which of the following general statements relating to MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Is a common occurring complication
 - Occurs mainly in the maxilla
 - Caused by antiresorptive (AR) and antiangiogenic (AA) medications
 - Most commonly triggered by tooth extraction
 - MRONJ can occur spontaneously
- Which of the following statements relating to the estimated incidence of MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Overall mean incidence is 0,58%
 - Mean incidence for cancer patients is 6.22%
 - Mean incidence for osteoporosis patients is 2,42%
 - Mean estimated incidence in cancer and osteoporosis patients is 7.21%
- Which of the following statements relating to the case definition of MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Previous or current use of AR or AA medications alone or in combination
 - Exposed bone that can be probed through an intra-oral or extra-oral fistula
 - Persisted for more than 2 weeks
 - No history of radiation therapy
 - No history of metastatic disease of the jaw
- Which of the following statements relating to the mechanisms of pathogenesis of MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Is multi-factorial
 - Over-suppression of bone turnover
 - Bisphosphonate toxicity to soft-tissue
 - Inhibition of angiogenesis
 - All of above
- Which of the following diagnostic methods are critical for the initial investigative method for the prevention of MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Comprehensive medical and dental history
 - Clinical assessment
 - Orthopantomography
 - Bone turnover biomarkers
 - MR scan
- Antiresorptive agents suppress osteoclast function and remodelling which is beneficial for fracture prevention but may impair socket healing and predispose to MRONJ in the presence of oral inflammation or surgical trauma. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Orthopantomography has become the gold standard method for detecting the most common characteristics, and staging of MRONJ. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Which of the following statements relating to digital imaging techniques and diagnostic accuracy are TRUE?
 - Panoramic x-rays are effective at detecting MRONJ signs such as changes in trabecular bone density and bone sequestrum
 - CT imaging is highly recommended for clinical staging of MRONJ
 - Advanced digital imaging (CT and CBCT) is recommended for confirming suspected MRONJ diagnosis
 - CT and CBCT is recommended for a more thorough radiographic assessment for diagnosis of MRONJ lesions.
- Which of the following controversial issues related to MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Stage 2 and 3 terminology may lead to MRONJ overdiagnosis and thus over-treatment
 - There is insufficient evidence to recommend medication interruption (drug holiday)
 - There is insufficient evidence to recommend routine use of serum bone turnover markers (e.g., CTX) to predict risk
 - The diagnostic 8-week window period of the MRONJ case definition may lead to delays in referral and treatment, potentially resulting in harm to the patient.
 - CT scans cannot accurately determine the extent of MRONJ lesions
- No superiority was demonstrated between adjunctive preventive strategies (i.e., PRF, oxygen-Ozone therapy) and different surgical wound closure techniques in reducing the risk of MRONJ in patients undergoing tooth extraction. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - TRUE
 - FALSE

QUESTIONNAIRE 4

Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ): New insights on ethically responsible risk preventive strategies.

Part 2: Risk factors, triggers, modifiers, and ethical considerations.

Johan Hartshorne/Johan Kotzé

- Which of the following general statements relating to MRONJ in patients receiving antiresorptive (AR) and antiangiogenic (AA) medication for bone metastatic cancers or osteoporosis are TRUE:
 - Is a rare but serious complication
 - MRONJ has emerged as a significant comorbidity in cancer patients
 - Ill-fitting dentures are is the most common cause of MRONJ
 - Tooth extraction remains the most common triggering event
 - MRONJ can occur spontaneously or following invasive dental procedures
- Which of the following medication-related factors are associated with high risk for MRONJ?
 - High dose and frequency
 - Prolonged use of AR (> 3 years)
 - History of long-term use of anti-inflammatories
 - Concurrent use of AR and AA medication
 - History of long-term use of corticosteroids
- The risk of MRONJ is significantly higher in cancer patients than in osteoporosis patients. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Prolia® is high dose parenteral bisphosphonate medication provided every 6 months for patients with bone metastatic cancers. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - TRUE
 - FALSE
- Which of the following systemic factors is associated with an increased risk for MRONJ?
 - Cancer
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - Paget's Disease
 - Chemotherapy
 - All of above
- Which of the following statements related to oral-related local risk factors and the development of MRONJ are TRUE?
 - MRONJ is more likely to appear in the mandible
 - Patients with periodontitis and periapical infections are predisposed to a heightened risk of developing MRONJ
 - Ill-fitting dentures increases the risk of MRONJ in cancer patients
 - Performing invasive dental procedures in osteoporosis patients receiving oral Alendronate increases the risk of developing MRONJ by 4.7 times
 - The degree of severity of underlying infection/inflammation does not increase the risk of MRONJ
- Which of the following risk factors places a patient in a higher risk level?
 - Current, past and future use of AR/AA
 - Duration of AR/AA medication < 4 yrs
 - Concurrent AR/AA therapy for cancer
 - Bisphosphonate therapy for osteoporosis
 - High dose AR therapy
- Which of the following statements relating to the ethical principle of 'Beneficence' are TRUE?
 - Maximizing patient benefit
 - Acting in the patients' best interest
 - Respect patients' right to self determination
 - Prioritize the patients overall health.
 - Fairness and equitable access to preventive care and specialist referral and collaborative pathways
- Which of the following statements relating to the ethical principle of 'Non-maleficence' are TRUE?
 - Underlines the ethical duty to avoid risk and minimise harm
 - Medications prescribed for dental and medical conditions have potential adverse effects that warrant risk-benefit considerations
 - Tooth extraction does not carry the risk of triggering MRONJ
 - Clinicians must minimise avoidable harm through careful treatment planning and non-surgical alternative when possible
 - Before commencement of AR / AA therapy, patients should be rendered as dentally fit as feasible.
- Which of the following key ethical principles relating to the preventing of MRONJ are TRUE?
 - Atraumatic surgical techniques is ethically obligatory to minimise the risk of MRONJ
 - Respect for autonomy requires transparent discussion of material risk, reasonable alternatives to extraction. And potential outcomes and impact on quality of life
 - Overemphasizing and underemphasizing risk is not ethically problematic
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration and medical liaison is not a shared responsibility
 - Thorough record keeping of risk discussion protect both patient and practitioner ethically and legally.

QUESTIONNAIRE 5

Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ): New insights on ethically responsible risk preventive strategies.

Part 3: Preventive strategies for minimising risk of MRONJ. Johan Hartshorne/Johan Kotzé

1. Which of the following general statements relating to MRONJ in patients receiving antiresorptive (AR) and antiangiogenic (AA) medication for bone metastatic cancers or osteoporosis are TRUE?
 - a Is a rare but debilitating complication
 - b MRONJ is characterized by exposed necrotic bone in the maxillofacial region that fails to heal over a prolonged period
 - c Although the prevalence of MRONJ is high, its impact on affected individuals is insignificant
 - d Dentists play a significant role in identifying patients at risk and preventing MRONJ
 - e Ethically, the obligation to prevent MRONJ aligns with fundamental principles of non-maleficence and beneficence
 2. Before commencement of AR or AA therapy, or as soon as possible thereafter, aim to get the patient as dentally fit as feasible and prioritise preventive care. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
 3. Which of the following statements relating to preventive strategies to minimise risk of MRONJ in patients before receiving AR and/or AA therapy are TRUE?
 - a A comprehensive dental examination with dental radiographs and timely tooth extraction is crucial before initiation of AR/AA therapy
 - b Discuss the low but real MRONJ risk and the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene
 - c Extraction of a tooth before high-dose AR administration may increase the risk of MRONJ
 - d Optimise dental health before the initiation AR/AA therapy
 - e Communicate with the prescribing physician regarding timing of therapy and possibility of brief postponement of AR/AA therapy where extraction is indicated
 4. For medically complex cases (e.g., patients receiving chemotherapy, immunosuppressants, or corticosteroids), consider consulting or referring the patient to an OMFS specialist for clinical assessment and treatment planning. (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
 5. Which of the following statements relating to preventive measures and continuing dental treatment in patients during AR/AA therapy are TRUE?
 - a Multidisciplinary collaboration among health care providers is fundamental in identifying high-risk individuals
 - b A Panoramic x-ray remain the most sensitive diagnostic tool for MRONJ
 - c Individualised risk-based preventive dental screening is critical for preventing MRONJ
 - d The certain value of AR/AA medication interruption
 - e Avoid dento-alveolar surgery, if possible, especially in higher risk cases, and consider root retention techniques to avoid extractions
 6. Which of the following statements related to interceptive dental and oral health care as preventive measure to minimise MRONJ risk during AR/AA therapy are TRUE?
 - a Periodontal disease should be proactively managed with surgical intervention to minimise risk of MRONJ
 - b Root canal treatment is a safe alternative to extraction
 - c Apicoectomy is a safe alternative to extraction and is not considered a risk factor for MRONJ
 - d Prosthodontic treatment should be aimed towards minimising stress load and the impact of the dental prostheses on the supporting mucosa
 - e Implant-related surgical procedure in high-risk patients are generally contraindicated due to a significantly higher MRONJ risk
 7. Which of the following statements related minimising MRONJ risk in patients receiving AR/AA therapy where tooth extraction is indicated are TRUE?
 - a Consider antibiotic prophylaxis if indicated
 - b Using tailored preventive measures for individual patients remains the most effective approach
 - c Explore all possible conservative alternatives where teeth could potentially be retained
 - d Treat active infection before extraction
 - e All of above
 8. Tooth extraction requires ethically responsible planning and execution to minimise trauma and subsequent complications associated with MRONJ (TRUE or FALSE?)
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE
 9. Which of the following statements related post-operative care required to minimising MRONJ risk in patients receiving AR/AA therapy where tooth extraction has been performed are TRUE?
 - a Reinforce rigorous oral hygiene practises and the use of antimicrobial rinse for 2 weeks
 - b Antibiotics should only be prescribed where indicated in medically complex patients
 - c First follow-up is at 8 weeks
 - d Educate patients on the signs and symptoms of MRONJ
 - e Early detection of symptoms is critical for timely intervention
 10. Which of the following statements related to monitoring and escalation of MRONJ in patients receiving AR/AA therapy where a tooth extraction has been performed, are TRUE?
 - a Any non-healing socket or exposed bone persisting beyond 8 weeks meets MRONJ criteria and warrants specialist evaluation.
 - b A thorough CBCT or CT assessment should be the initial investigative method used by a dentist
 - c Computer tomography has become the gold standard method for detecting the most common characteristics and staging of MRONJ
 - d If the extraction socket is not healed at 8 weeks, and you suspect MRONJ, refer to an OMFS specialist
 - e Reinforce the importance of routine dental check-ups and continuous oral health maintenance
-

CPD ACCREDITATION NO: MDB014/041/06/2025 (COLLEGES OF MEDICINE OF SOUTH AFRICA)
LEVEL: 1 : 5 CEU'S (ETHICS)

1. The impact of digital transformation on data security, privacy and confidentiality: Human rights, legal and ethical considerations					
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4. Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ): New insights on ethically responsible risk preventive strategies. Part 2: Risk factors, triggers, modifiers, and ethical considerations					
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5. Medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ): New insights on ethically responsible risk preventive strategies. Part 3: Preventive strategies for minimising risk of MRONJ.					
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