Material and methods We evaluated 6 patients with osteonecrosis as a complication of leukaemia or lymphoma treatment between September 1998 and September 2013. Osteonecrosis was confirmed by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the symptomatic joints.

Results Of 563 patients, 6 (4 girls, 2 boys) (1.1%) developed symptomatic osteonecrosis, in a total of 11 joints. The median age at diagnosis of malignancy was 14 years (range 10–18 years) and the median interval between primary diagnosis and onset of osteonecrosis related symptoms was 33 months (range 11–120 months). Underlying malignancies were acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (n = 3) and Hodgkin Lymphoma (n = 3). Affected joints were hip (n = 7), knee (n = 3) and elbow (n = 1). All patients had received previous corticosteroid therapy at a median dose in prednisone equivalent of 4239 mg/m² (range 3918–4600 mg/m²). Treatment of osteonecrosis included restriction of weight-bearing, physical therapy and analgesics. One patient had to undergo arthroscopy. All patients showed improvement in pain and motor function.

Conclusions In our cohort, there has been a predominance of female adolescents. Weight-bearing joints were the most commonly affected. Increased awareness for skeletal symptoms during follow-up of patients with hematologic malignancies allows early detection of osteonecrosis, leading to prompt intervention and may prevent more severe morbidity.
This 3-year cross sectional study was performed in Dr. Sheikh Children’s Hospital in Mashhad on 50 children with ALL (n = 25) and NHL (n = 25). Half of them were received (n = 25) chemotherapy alone and half of them chemotherapy plus radiotherapy (n = 25). All children were in the remission phase. We assessed them by DEXA bone mineral densitometry (BMD) on the lumbar spine and femoral neck (hip). We also measured some bone biomarkers include calcium (Ca), phosphorus (P), parathormone (PTH), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) in plasma. Results by age, height, sex and Body Mass Index (BMI) were adjusted with a special software.

Results Mean age was 8.28 ± 3.93 years. There was no significant difference on bone biomarkers (Ca, P, ALP PTH) between ALL, NHL and also between the two treatment groups. Children with ALL had lower density at the hip and lumbar spine. (respectively p value < 0.001 and p value =0.018). A total of 50 patients, the hip BMD showed normal results in 3 patients (6%), in 14 patients (28%) osteopenia were seen and 33 patients (66%) had osteoporosis. In whom received radiotherapy plus chemotherapy, one patient had normal BMD and 24 patients (48% of total patients) at the hip and 22 patients (44%) at lumbar spine had decreased BMD. In contrast, in whom had only chemotherapy, 24 patients (48%) had osteoporosis at hip and 23 (46%) at the lumbar spine. There was no significant difference in BMD between the sexes.

Conclusion Given that 94% of children had abnormal bone density, Seem to pay more attention to the metabolic status and BMD in children with cancer can develop appropriate strategies to improve health and quality of their life.