

Patient Name: _____

Date: _____

INFORMED CONSENT
DENTAL TREATMENT & RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ORAL BISPHOSPHONATE USE

Because you are taking a type of drug called an oral bisphosphonate, you may be at risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw, and certain dental treatments may increase that risk. The degree of risk for osteonecrosis in patients taking oral bisphosphonates for osteoporosis is uncertain and warrants careful monitoring, and dental treatment should be with close association and consultation with your treating medical physician.

What is osteonecrosis of the jaw?

Bone is a living tissue with living cells and a blood supply. Osteonecrosis means death of bone which can occur from the loss of the blood supply or by a problem with the bone's ability to regrow. Very rarely, osteonecrosis of the jawbone has occurred in individuals taking oral bisphosphonates for treatment of osteoporosis or Paget's disease of bone. Dental treatments that involve the bone can make the condition worse.

What is the risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw?

Your risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw from using oral bisphosphonates is very small (estimated at less than one person per 100,000 person-years of exposure to the drugs *Fosamax*, *Actonel* or *Boniva*); but, if it does occur, it may be a serious condition with no known treatment so you should be aware of this complication. At this time, there is no way to determine who will develop the disease. However, the condition is rare and has just recently been associated with the use of oral bisphosphonates. It is important for you to understand that other factors may play a role in the development of osteonecrosis, such as other medications you are taking and health problems that you may have.

What are the risks associated with dental procedures?

Although the risk is low with any procedure, it is higher with procedures involving the bone and associated tissues, such as tooth extractions. Bisphosphonates have been associated with osteonecrosis of the jaw; with the mandible twice as frequently affected as the maxilla and most cases occurring following high-dose intravenous administration used for some cancer patients. Some 60% of cases are preceded by a dental surgical procedure and it has been suggested that bisphosphonate treatment should be postponed until after any dental work to eliminate potential sites of infection

What are the signs and symptoms of osteonecrosis of the jaw?

You should tell your dentist immediately if you have any of the following symptoms, now or in the months following treatment:

- feeling of numbness, heaviness or other sensations in your jaw
- pain in your jaw
- swelling of your jaw
- loose teeth
- drainage
- exposed bone

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT

Dr. _____ and/or his/her staff have presented information to aid in the decision-making process. I have been given the opportunity to ask the doctor and/or staff members all questions I have about the proposed dental treatment and the risks associated with oral bisphosphonate use. I hereby acknowledge that the major treatment consideration and potential risks of dental treatment have been explained and presented to me. I have read and understand this consent form. I also understand that problems listed may or may not occur during dental treatment. I give our consent for the doctor and his staff to perform the following proposed specific dental care: _____

Patient: _____

Date: _____