

CONSENT FOR PATIENTS TAKING BISPHOSPHONATES

Because you are taking a type of drug called a bisphosphonate, you may be at risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw and certain dental treatments may increase that risk.

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 re-grow. Osteonecrosis of the jaw has occurred in individuals taking oral or intravenous bisphosphonates for treatment of osteoporosis, Paget's disease of the bone, or certain types of cancer. 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 bisphosphonates is low. 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 condition. 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.

SHOULD I STOP TAKING THE BISPHOSPHONATE?

The benefits of reducing hip fractures and other complications associated with osteoporosis can be very important. Your dentist cannot advise you about these benefits. You should talk with your physician if you have any questions. Also, it has not been shown that stopping use of the drug will decrease your risk for developing osteonecrosis. Your dentist may recommend a "drug holiday," which is a period of time where you temporarily stop taking your bisphosphonate (typically for a period of 6 months) in order to reduce your chance for developing osteonecrosis. Typically, your dentist will verify this recommendation with your physician prior to any dental treatment.

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, periodontal surgery, and dental implants.

HOW CAN I DECREASE MY RISK OF DEVELOPING OSTEONECROSIS?

Talk with your dentist about oral hygiene, because maintaining good oral hygiene is the best way to prevent oral diseases that may require dental surgery.

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
- Pus
- Exposed bone

WHAT OTHER CHOICES DO I HAVE IF I DO NOT HAVE THE PROCEDURE?

Your treatment options depend on the oral health condition that you have. Your dentist will be able to discuss treatment options with you.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH NOT HAVING THE PROCEDURE

Your risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw is low. You may be at increased risk for developing other health problems if your dental disease is not treated. Your dentist will be able to discuss alternative treatments, other risks associated with various treatment options, and the risk of no treatment, even temporarily.

I certify that I have read and fully understand the above authorization and informed consent to treatment and the explanations referred to above.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

PRINTED NAME:

DATE:

WITNESS:

DATE: