

Notice to Patients Who have Taken Bisphosphonate Medication

Introduction

Bisphosphonates are a class of drugs that inhibit bone thinning. They are commonly prescribed in the treatment of:

Cancer, Osteoporosis, Osteopenia and Post-Menopausal Bone Loss

These drugs are given intravenously in cancer treatment and have brand names such as:
Bonefos, Aredia, Skelide and Zometa.

These drugs are taken in pill form for osteoporosis treatment and have brand names such as:
Fosamax, Didronel, Actonel and Boniva.

These drugs stay in the body and can cause side effects many years after they were taken.

Precautions Regarding Dental Treatment

If you are taking (or have taken) bisphosphonate medication, you should know that there can be a risk of future complications attendant to dental treatment. This is especially true if you have received these drugs intravenously.

In recent dental research bisphosphonate drugs have been associated with the problem of poor jawbone healing. If your jawbone has been affected by bisphosphonates, it can result in osteonecrosis of the jaw. Osteonecrosis means "death of the bone." This is a destructive process in the jawbone that is many times difficult or impossible to eliminate.

If you have ever taken one of these drugs, maintaining your oral health becomes even more important. Speak to your general dentist and boost your hygiene visits to three or four times per year. Make sure you get at least one dental check-up per year from your general dentist. These extra measures will help prevent complications and preserve your jawbone.

Signature

I certify that I speak, read and write English. I further certify that I have read and fully understand the above notice and have had all of my questions answered.

Patient's (Or Legal Guardian's) Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date