

Anxiety Free Dental Care

Marc Gottlieb D.D.S.

3601 Hempstead Turnpike

Levittown, NY 11756

516-796-6600

marc@anxietyfreedental.com

Osteoporosis Medications and Your Dental Health

According to studies, bisphosphonate medications increase bone density and help to reduce the chance of broken bones. Osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) has occurred in patients who have taken this medication. This is called Bisphosphonate-associated Osteonecrosis of the jaw, or BON. While BON is rare, it is a serious condition that may cause severe damage to the jaw bone. BON is diagnosed in patients who have 1) an area of a jaw that has been exposed for 8 weeks or more. 2) no history of radiation therapy to head and/or neck 3) taken or are taking a bisphosphonate medication.

If you are on Bisphosphonate medication for osteoporosis, your chance of developing BON is small and the actual risk is still unknown. Patients who received an intravenous Bisphosphonate medication are at a higher risk than those taking it by mouth. Stopping the medication does not eliminate the risk of BON because the medication can remain in your bones for months to years.

Any patients taking this class of medication needs to take care of their teeth and gums. Since they are at risk Bisphosphonate patients should have dental exams every 3 months and incorporate extra fluoride into their hygiene routine to avoid a dental emergency. Always discuss your risk of BON with the dentist and physician.