

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major Update on Death of Jawbones from Drugs Commonly Used by Women

[Rosemont, IL, October 1, 2014] Drugs commonly used by women to prevent osteoporosis and used by both men and women for treating a form of cancer are associated necrosis (death) of jawbones. It has been found that another type of drug that blocks blood vessel formation carries the same risk. The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) has released a new paper on Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ) that expands the scope of the condition previously referred to as Bisphosphonate-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (BRONJ). The name has been changed to reflect that antiresorptive (denosumab) and antiangiogenic drugs can also cause jaw necrosis similar to that seen with bisphosphonates used to prevent osteoporosis. The paper was written by members of the distinguished AAOMS Special Committee that prepared previous position papers on this serious problem.

In addition to changing the name of the condition, the MRONJ paper provides guidance to:

1. Doctors and patients in making medical decisions relating to the risk of developing jaw bone death;
2. Doctor regarding how to detect MRONJ in patients with a history of exposure to drugs newly associated with the problem; and to
3. Doctors regarding how to prevent the problem and treat patients with MRONJ.

MRONJ is painful and difficult to treat. While necrosis of the jaw has been recognized for many years, the identification of bisphosphonates as a contributory factor to the condition was first reported by oral and maxillofacial surgeons when they noticed an increase in the number of patients exhibiting jawbone death. A review of these cases indicated that drugs to prevent osteoporosis in women were the common thread.

Read the complete position paper at 56313: J Oral Maxillofac Surg 72:1938-1956, 2014.

The Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is published monthly by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons to present to the dental and medical communities comprehensive coverage of new techniques, important developments and innovative ideas in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Practice-applicable articles help develop the methods used to handle dentoalveolar surgery, facial injuries and deformities, TMJ disorders, oral cancer, jaw reconstruction, anesthesia and analgesia. The journal also includes specifics on new instruments and diagnostic equipment and modern therapeutic drugs and devices.

###