

# **Fetner & Hartigan, Periodontics**

## **Medical Alert**

To all patients that have been or who are currently being treated with Bisphosphonate Medication. Examples are: Actonel, Zometa, Aredia, Didronal, Fosamax, Boniva.

These medications have recently been identified as a potential cause of osteonecrosis of the jaws following any surgical dental treatment. These medications have been prescribed by your medical doctor to prevent or treat breast cancer, prostate cancer, Myeloma, Paget's disease of the bone, alveolar necrosis of the bone or post-menopausal osteoporosis.

These medications can be administered either orally or intravenously. The intravenous forms have a higher rate of creating (BON – Bisphosphonate Associated Osteonecrosis (12-13%) in the patient's confronted with oral surgery treatment. This entity includes non-healing of bone and surrounding soft tissue after dental extractions, periodontal surgery, partial dentures or denture trauma. It can occur weeks after the dental treatment and is associated with severe pain. There is "no" proven treatment that can remedy this problem. For this reason, it is imperative that we get good health information prior to your treatment regarding any exposure to these drugs.

If you are unsure of what medications may have been used your medical doctor should be contacted. This will help in determining the best treatment approach for your needs.

### **Consent for Surgery for Patients who have been or who are currently on Bisphosphonates**

I \_\_\_\_\_ am aware of the complications that my Bisphosphonate medication can cause regarding healing after a dental surgery procedure. I have been informed by Drs. Fetner and Hartigan, of the correlation of this medication and the healing problems that an oral surgery procedure can cause. Other alternate treatment options were discussed (i.e. do nothing, endodontic treatment, root bank or prosthetic adjustment) by Drs. Fetner and Hartigan. It is my decision to proceed with the following treatment.

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I am aware that even with all the precautions, osteonecrosis and other delays in healing may still occur. However, if the oral surgery above is not completed, other inflammatory or infective problems could occur that could still create osteonecrotic problems.