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Informed Consent for Oral Surgery for patients taking Bisphosphonate medication

Patient: _____ Doctor: _____

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 including, but not limited to extraction of teeth. You should understand that the risk for developing this condition is very small.

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 heal from surgery/procedures. Very rarely, osteonecrosis of the jawbone has occurred in individuals taking oral bisphosphonates (Fosamax) for treatment of osteoporosis or Paget’s disease of bone. Dental treatments that involve the bone can make the condition worse.

Your risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw, from using oral bisphosphonates, is very small (estimated at less than one person per 100,000 person-years of exposure to the drugs Fosamax, Actonel, Didronel or Boniva and the like); but, 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 disease. However, the condition is rare and has just recently been associated RARELY with the use of oral bisphosphonates. 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.

Intravenous forms of bisphosphonates (Aredia, Bonefos, Zometa etc.) are associated with much higher risks for osteonecrosis and their benefits for cancer treatment must be weighed against these increased risks for jaw problems.

The benefits of reducing hip fractures and other complications associated with osteoporosis can be very important. We cannot advise you about these benefits. You should talk with your physician if you have questions on that topic. Also, it has not been shown that stopping use of the drug will decrease your risk for developing osteonecrosis.

Although the risk is low with any procedure, it is higher with procedures involving the bone and associated tissues, such as tooth extractions. Your dentist will be able to tell you if the procedure will involve these tissues.

You should tell your dentist immediately if you have any of the following symptoms, now or in the months following treatment:

- numbness, heaviness or other sensations in your jaw
- pain and swelling in your jaw
- loose teeth or infection
- exposed bone

I acknowledge that all risks and benefits have been explained to me. The procedures will be performed by a general dentist and consult and/or treatment by an oral maxillofacial surgeon may be necessary in the future if symptoms arise.

Patient: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

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