

Margaret B. Childers, D.D.S.
Cosmetic & Family Dentistry

Important notice to patients taking medications for the treatment of:

- Osteoporosis
- Osteopenia
- Bone Cancer
- Post-menopausal bone loss

If you are currently taking or have been previously treated with Fosamax, Aredia, Actonel, or Zometa, you should know there may be a risk of future complications with surgical dental treatment. This is especially true if you have received the drugs directly through an intravenous line.

- Fosamax** (Alendronate)
- Aredia** (Pamidronate)
- Actonel** (Risedronate)
- Zometa** (Zoledronic acid)

These four drugs, which are taken in pill form, can be associated with the problem of poor bone healing. This reduction in bone healing can occur after dental treatments that affect the bone surrounding your teeth, such as: tooth extraction, periodontal infection, or dental implant placement. If the bone surrounding your teeth does not heal properly, it could result in osteonecrosis of the jaw. Osteonecrosis means "death of the bone." This is a destructive process in the jawbone that is often difficult or impossible to eliminate.

If you have ever taken one of these drugs, maintaining your oral health is very important. You may need to consider boosting your hygiene visits to three or four times per year. Make sure you get at least one dental check-up per year. These extra precautions will help prevent complications and preserve your jawbone.

More information is available on this topic in the December 2005 *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

SIGNATURE

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the above notice and have had my questions answered.

Patient's (Or Legal Guardian's) Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date