

# Dr. Little's Dental News

*Presented by Jeffery Little, D.D.S.*



## TAKING IT ON THE JAW

Patients who take injections and pill forms of the class of anti-osteoporosis drugs known as bisphosphonates should be aware that the drugs might trigger jawbone decay after certain dental procedures. According to researchers, bisphosphonates such as alendronate (Fosamax, Binosto); risedronate (Actonel, Atelvia); ibandronate (Boniva); zoledronic acid (Reclast, Zometa); and denosumab (Prolia, Xgeva) have been linked to "osteonecrosis" (failure to heal after a minor trauma such as getting a tooth pulled). The risk appears to increase with the length of time the drugs are taken. With this in mind, patients taking osteoporosis drugs should

discuss the matter with their dentists before having a tooth extracted, undergoing dental implantation, or having surgery performed on the jawbone.

Osteoporosis also has a direct relationship on oral and dental health as the disease can hamper or damage jawbones. It also triggers dental and oral health issues, including gum or periodontal diseases and loss of teeth. Bone weakness and loss may also affect the body ridges that hold dentures in their proper position, resulting in poor-fitting dentures. To schedule an appointment, please call us today.

P.S. In addition to treating osteoporosis, bisphosphonates are also used to treat cancer that has metastasized to the bone.

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*Dr. Little provides quality family and cosmetic dentistry.*

*His office is located at 344 Placerville Dr., Suite 19, Placerville.*

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