

# Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaws (MRONJ): A Comprehensive Guide

Medication related osteonecrosis of the jaws (MRONJ) is a serious condition that can occur in people who are taking certain medications, such as bisphosphonates and denosumab. These medications are used to treat conditions such as osteoporosis, Paget's disease of bone, and multiple myeloma.

MRONJ is a condition in which the jawbone becomes exposed and infected. It can be a very painful and debilitating condition that can lead to significant damage to the jawbone and surrounding tissues.



## Medication-Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaws: Bisphosphonates, Denosumab, and New Agents

by Kenneth Kee

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 6245 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 541 pages



## Symptoms of MRONJ

The symptoms of MRONJ can vary, but they typically include:

- Pain in the jaw

- Swelling in the jaw
- Exposed bone in the jaw
- Infection in the jaw
- Difficulty eating or speaking

## **Causes of MRONJ**

MRONJ is caused by certain medications that are used to treat conditions such as osteoporosis, Paget's disease of bone, and multiple myeloma. These medications, known as bisphosphonates and denosumab, work by slowing down the breakdown of bone. This helps to prevent fractures and other bone problems.

However, these medications can also have side effects, including MRONJ. The risk of developing MRONJ is higher in people who take these medications for a long period of time, or who take them at high doses.

## **Risk Factors for MRONJ**

The following factors can increase the risk of developing MRONJ:

- Taking bisphosphonates or denosumab for a long period of time
- Taking bisphosphonates or denosumab at high doses
- Having dental problems, such as gum disease or poor oral hygiene
- Having a history of jaw surgery
- Having diabetes
- Being a smoker

## **Diagnosis of MRONJ**

MRONJ is diagnosed based on a patient's symptoms and a physical examination of the jaw. Your dentist may also take X-rays or other imaging tests to confirm the diagnosis.

## **Treatment of MRONJ**

The treatment of MRONJ depends on the severity of the condition. In some cases, treatment may not be necessary. However, in other cases, treatment may involve:

- Stopping the medication that is causing MRONJ
- Taking antibiotics to treat the infection
- Surgery to remove the damaged bone and tissue
- Dental implants to replace the damaged bone

## **Prevention of MRONJ**

There is no sure way to prevent MRONJ. However, there are some things that you can do to reduce your risk of developing this condition:

- Talk to your doctor about the risks of MRONJ before starting treatment with bisphosphonates or denosumab
- Follow your doctor's instructions for taking your medication
- Practice good oral hygiene, including brushing your teeth twice a day and flossing regularly
- See your dentist regularly for checkups and cleanings
- Quit smoking

MRONJ is a serious condition that can have a significant impact on your quality of life. If you are taking bisphosphonates or denosumab, it is important to be aware of the risk of developing MRONJ and to take steps to reduce your risk.

If you think you may have MRONJ, it is important to see your dentist or doctor right away. Early diagnosis and treatment can help to prevent serious complications.

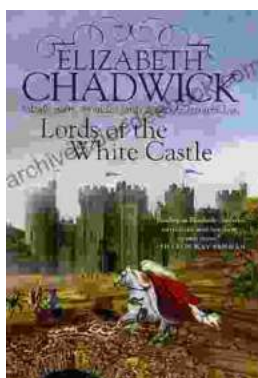


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