

Signs and symptoms of ONJ and MRONJ

- Lip numbness.
- Jaw pain.
- Delayed healing after an extraction.
- Bad taste in mouth.
- Infection.
- Fistulas (abnormal channel, appears like a pus filled bump on the gum to drain infection).
- Swelling (facial or in mouth).
- Loose teeth.
- Exposed bone.

Further information and resources

www.baos.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/MRONJ-website-text.pdf.

Contact Details

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Nurse's Office Tel: 01785 230577
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Patient Information Leaflet

Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ) and Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (ONJ)



Please speak to a member of staff if you need this leaflet in large print, braille, audio or another language

Introduction

This leaflet will provide you with information on Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (ONJ). And Medication Related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw (MRONJ).

If after reading the leaflet you have any questions, please speak to one of the team.

What is ONJ?

- ONJ is a condition where the jaw bone becomes exposed to the inside of the mouth. It occurs when the blood supply to the jaw is reduced causing some bone cells to die. ONJ occurs in less than 5% (5 in 100 people).
- ONJ can happen when a tooth is surgically removed and may become infected and painful. Antibiotics are used to treat infections. If the bone is damaged additional surgery may be required.
- ONJ often heals on its own and is monitored initially for healing before considering surgery.

Patients who are receiving cancer treatment may be at a higher risk of getting ONJ due to chemotherapy and radiotherapy reducing healing.

Before starting cancer treatment, you may be asked to attend a consultation with the Maxillofacial and Restorative team to check the health condition of your teeth or your dentist.

If any dental treatment is required this will be completed prior to starting cancer treatment.

What is MRONJ?

MRONJ is medication related osteonecrosis of the Jaw and can occur in patients who take medications like Bisphosphonates.

- Bisphosphonates can be taken via injection or tablet form although via injection carries a higher risk.

Before starting these types of medications, you may be advised to have a check up with your dentist.

Do not stop or alter any medication without advice from a doctor.

Preventing MRONJ

- Having regular check ups with your dentist to maintain good oral health.
- Tooth extractions are avoided if possible and patients should be encouraged to have teeth restored by the dentist. In cases where a tooth is non-salvable, extraction might be recommended.
- After removal of a tooth, antibiotics and antibacterial mouthwashes may be given to you to prevent MRONJ from happening.