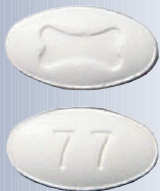




Joan McDevitt began taking an oral bisphosphonate like Fosamax for low bone density. A year and a half later, she had an infected tooth extracted. The hole would not heal, and pieces of bone from her jaw kept splintering and coming out. Her oral surgeon "cut into the jaw – he cut and filed the bone down." It did not help. "I had horrible sores . . . ungodly painful sores. I was in agony. I never had anything like that in my life." Ms. McDevitt is now no better. – *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)*



Fosamax Linked to Jaw Decay



The American Association of Endodontists issued a position statement in

March encouraging dentists to warn patients taking "bisphosphonates," including Fosamax, of the potential risk for developing osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ).

ONJ is a potentially disfiguring condition that leads to the breakdown of the

jawbone and loss of teeth, and is otherwise known as dead jaw, jawbone necrosis or jaw death.

With more than 22 million prescriptions last year alone, Fosamax is one of the most widely used drugs to treat osteoporosis. The *New York Times* reports that "among the 500,000 American cancer patients who take" bone-strengthening drugs with the same active ingredient as Fosamax, up to "10 percent may develop the problem." – Gina Kolata, "Drug for Bones is Newly Linked to Jaw Disease," *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)

Research indicates that Fosamax may prevent the jawbone from healing properly after a simple dental procedure has exposed the jaw bone. These procedures include tooth extractions, root canals and other oral surgery. "Some dentists are refusing to treat patients taking the drugs, fearful that the dental work

will induce a case of osteonecrosis . . ." – *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)*

"Patients who have been receiving intravenous bisphosphonates should avoid having teeth pulled 'at all costs.'"

– *USA Today* (March 13, 2005)

Symptoms of ONJ include severe infections, loosening of the teeth, facial discomfort or numbness, swelling gums, poor gum healing after surgery, severe mouth pain, oral infections, loose teeth, tooth loss, exposed bone in the mouth and lingering mouth abscesses. ONJ may even cause splintering bones in the mouth or become so severe as to require the removal of the jaw.

Other bisphosphonates include **Actonel**, **Boniva**, **Zometa** and **Aredia** and are also linked to ONJ. These drugs are also used to treat men with decreased bone mass,



Linked to Death of Jawbone," *USA Today* (April 13, 2005) <http://www.igdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=b90335f3-c323-4645-a810-a187d917de4d> (ID SUPRA™)

Dr. Robert E. Marx, chief of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Miami, referred to ONJ in a 2003 issue of *The Journal of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery*, as "a growing epidemic."

Dr. Marx reported that of the patients in his recent study who received intravenous bisphosphonates, "all 'had painful bone exposure,' as is typical with the condition, and were unresponsive to surgical or medical treatments." – *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)*

"And not every case has been published or reported . . ." says oral surgeon Regina Landesberg of Columbia University. "But it's so impossible to get a handle on what the incidence is. You just don't know." – *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)*

women who have experienced menopause or suffer from osteoporosis, those who suffer from various types of cancer, including leukemia, bone, prostate, lung and breast cancer and those with Paget's disease.

"Patients who have been receiving intravenous bisphosphonates should avoid having teeth pulled 'at all costs.'" – Dr.

Salvatore Ruggiero, *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* (May 2006)

"We never saw this before in the jaw . . . It just never existed." – Dr. Salvatore Ruggiero, *USA Today* (May 2006)

According to the National Osteonecrosis Foundation, **up to 20,000 Americans may be diagnosed each year with the**

potentially catastrophic condition.

"The pharmaceutical industry has every desire that a patient who starts on a [bisphosphonate] would take it for life . . . **The bone community . . . has always been a bit suspicious of that viewpoint.**" – Dr. Robert Gagel,

ONJ: "A Growing Epidemic"

Unfortunately, treatment is limited since bisphosphonates such as Fosamax remain in the body for several years. Those who have stopped using Fosamax may still be at risk.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an alert to doctors warning of the connection between bone-strengthening drugs like Fosamax and jaw necrosis. **The FDA "has required that all bisphosphonate drug labels disclose the link to osteonecrosis of the jaw."** – *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)*

USA Today reported as early as March 13, 2005 that, according to the FDA's own website, "osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) is a risk of all bisphosphonates" like Fosamax. – Rita Rubin, "Drug



MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, *New York Times* (June 2, 2006)*

If you or a loved one is taking or has taken **Fosamax, Actonel, Boniva, Aredia** or **Zometa**, please inform your dental care provider and

other medical specialists and call Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. now at **1-866-275-4454** to learn how to protect your legal rights. Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. has the knowledge, and the experience to get the best possible results for you and your family.

* – Gina Kolata, “Drug for Bones is Newly Linked to Jaw Disease”

Importance of legal representation

Please be aware that the deadline for bringing a claim is typically two years from the date of discovery of a related harm or condition, but this can vary from state to state. Also, it is vitally important to preserve your testimony and other crucial evidence right away for use at trial and in settlement negotiations.

If you or someone you love has been injured while taking Fosamax call Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. now for your free case evaluation at **1-866-275-4454**. The experienced team of lawyers at Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. has the resources and experience required to

get the best possible results for you and your family. We care, we are committed, and we get results.

WHY YOU RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER

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Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. also represents the following types of cases:

1. **Zyprexa** has been linked to **diabetes**, hyperglycemia, ketoacidosis, pancreatitis, Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS), and Tardive Dyskinesia;
2. Defective **Guidant and Metronic brand pacemakers and defibrillators** have led to numerous reports of death and other unnecessary injury;
3. **Lung Cancer** or **mesothelioma** linked to **asbestos exposure**;
4. **Vioxx, Celebrex** and **Bextra** linked to **heart attack** or **stroke**, **Stevens Johnson’s Syndrome** and TEN’s;
5. **Hormone Replacement Therapy** drugs, which may cause **breast cancer**, ovarian cancer and stroke;
6. **Leukemia (AML)** and **non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma** related to occupational chemical exposure;
7. Antidepressants including **Zoloft, Neurontin, Paxil, Effexor, Serzone** and others linked to an increased risk of suicide and **attempted suicide** or liver damage;
8. **Seroquel** linked to **diabetes**, obesity or high cholesterol;
9. **Tequin** linked to hypoglycemia & hyperglycemia, **diabetes**, renal insufficiency, kidney damage or kidney disease;
10. **ReNu Moisture Loc contact lens solution** that leads to *Fungal Keratitis* – **infection** of the eye;
11. **Zicam nasal spray** related to **loss of smell**, and/or the loss of taste;
12. **Ketek** related to liver failure, severe **liver damage**;
13. **Ortho Evra patch** and heart problems, strokes, blood clots or thrombosis;
14. **Tainted Tissue** – defective or contaminated bone, tissue or organ transplant;
15. **Cerebral Palsy** caused by **birth injuries**
16. **Railroad** injuries, FELA claims;
17. **Nursing home** negligence or abuse;
18. and **other serious bodily injuries**.

1-866-275-4454

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Fosamax and Jaw Decay in the News

“The drugs once seemed perfectly safe . . . But recently there have been reports of a serious side effect: death of areas of bone in the jaw.”

– Gina Kolata, “Drug for Bones is Newly Linked to Jaw Disease.”
New York Times (June 2, 2006)

If you have already retained a lawyer, please disregard this newsletter.

ADVERTISEMENT

Fosamax & Osteoporosis Newsletter

Did You Know?

- The *New York Times* recently linked the active ingredient in the popular osteoporosis medication Fosamax to a debilitating jaw decay condition known as osteonecrosis of the jaw or dead jaw.
- Symptoms of dead jaw often first appear after a minor dental procedure and may include:
 - ★ Facial numbness or a heavy feeling
 - ★ Poor gum healing after dental work
 - ★ Painful bone exposure
 - ★ Removal of the jaw
 - ★ Severe infections
 - ★ Loose teeth
 - ★ Tooth loss
 - ★ Lingering wounds

If you or a loved one has taken **Fosamax, Actonel, Boniva, Zometa** or **Aredia** and experienced any of these symptoms, call the experienced attorneys at Hissey★Kientz, L.L.P. now for a free and confidential consultation.

Other Hissey★Kientz Practice Areas

- Asbestos & lung cancer or mesothelioma
- Zyprexa, Seroquel & Tequin linked to diabetes
- Guidant & Metronic heart devices
- Ortho Evra patch & heart problems, strokes & blood clots
- Ketek & liver failure or damage
- Cerebral palsy & birth injury
- Leukemia & chemical exposure

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