



June, 2008

**What's New on  
PREMIERDENTISTRY.COM!**



*We're making changes and providing more on our website!*

*Starting in June and each month you'll find a special coupon offering great discounts for dental products or services.*

*Also new are patient's personal experiences with dental procedures received here at the center. Patients give testimony to treatments they have received and share their comments and end results!*

*Check often for new information, improvements and special offers on the Center for Premier Dentistry web site.*

## *Your Dental Health ... News and Info*

### **Osteoporosis and its Dental Implications**

Osteoporosis in America is an increasingly prevalent condition that is seen in all cross sections of the middle-aged and older populations. It usually goes undiagnosed until it is advanced enough to cause fractures which undoubtedly lead to a change in lifestyle and ultimately mortality rates. The oral health of these patients is also of great importance in not only retaining their dentition and oral health, but also as potentially early diagnostic information.

Osteoporosis is an asymptomatic disease that is characterized by bone loss leading to skeletal fragility. In a 2004 surgeon general study there were 10 million Americans older than 50 with osteoporosis and an estimated 34 million additional Americans w/ osteopenia which puts them at risk for developing osteoporosis.

Diagnosis of osteoporosis proves very difficult since the disease process is asymptomatic and most patients go undiagnosed until bone fracture occurs. The current diagnostic protocol for osteoporosis and osteopenia is BMD, bone mineral density. This reading is not unlike our current use of testing cholesterol and blood pressure in assisting with the diagnosis atherosclerosis and preventing myocardial infarction (heart attack) and stroke. One of the sources of testing BMD is digital radiography which is now becoming commonly found in dental practices throughout the United States and is available here at the Center for Premier dentistry. Digital radiography in the dental office via a routine panoramic radiograph is currently being researched as an early diagnostic tool that is readily available to patients in the United States.

There are many therapy options for patients with osteoporosis but one of the more common therapies with dental implications is the use of Bisphosphonates (fosamax). Bisphosphonase-associated osteonecrosis (BON) is an oral complication resulting from Bisphosphonase therapy and dental work that result in necrotic bone anywhere in the oral cavity. It has been most commonly seen in the more invasive therapies such as periodontal surgeries, placement of dental implants or the complex removal of impacted or broken down teeth. The discovery of BON was first followed by an over reaction by both patients and dentist alike and resulted in the discontinuation of a lot of patients osteoporosis therapies while dental treatments were being performed. A further understanding of BON has lead to new protocols in joint osteoporosis therapies and dental treatments.



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*(continued)*

The research has shown that there is less than 1 incident in 100,000 procedures and of those found the patients have been on a large IV bolus of the bisphosphonase. This IV bolus treatment is not very common in ambulatory patients and is more often seen in hospital inpatient therapies after fracture has already occurred.

It is apparent that collaboration of both physicians and dentist is necessary to properly identify and treat patients who are either at risk for or currently have osteoporosis. We here at the Center for Premier Dentistry are currently up to date on all the variations of osteoporosis therapies and the needed protocols when both invasive and non-invasive dentistry is needed. We will continue to better both our policies, protocols and equipment as these protocols change or call for them. If you would like to schedule an appointment or ask one of the doctors a question feel free to contact us via our contacts page and we will be happy to respond.