

MEDICATION-RELATED OSTEONECROSIS OF THE JAWS

SYNONYM

- MRONJ

ETIOLOGY

- When first described, the condition was called bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaws (BRONJ) because the bisphosphonates were the only medications known to cause it.
- Bisphosphonates are antiresorptive agents that interfere with osteoclast function thus inhibiting normal bone remodeling.
- They are used in the treatment of osteoporosis, bone metastases from breast cancer, Paget disease of bone, and multiple myeloma.
- The name has been changed to medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaws (MRONJ) because antiangiogenic agents, used in the treatment of cancer, can also cause osteonecrosis of the jaws.
- Dentoalveolar trauma, especially tooth extraction, increases the risk for MRONJ

TYPICAL VISUAL CUES

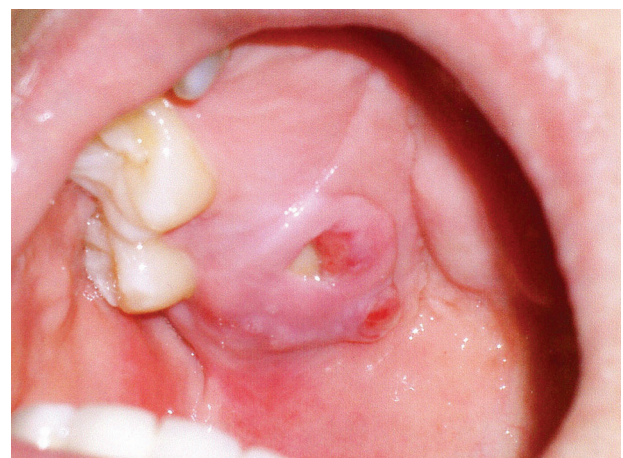
- Ulceration of the oral mucosa adjacent to necrotic alveolar bone
- Necrotic alveolar bone may be exposed
- Oral mucosal or cutaneous fistula with purulent discharge may be present
- Teeth in the area of involvement may be mobile



A draining cutaneous fistula under the chin of the same patient



MRONJ involving the anterior mandible. The patient had metastatic breast cancer which was being treated with an intravenous bisphosphonate.



MRONJ involving a traumatized palatal exostosis