

Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis is a disease in which the density and quality of bone are reduced. As bones become more porous and fragile, the risk of fracture greatly increases.

In osteoporosis, new bone does not replace old, resorbing bone quickly enough. This is attributed to less blood flow to the affected area. Often, certain drugs, called bisphosphonates, are used to treat osteoporosis and reduce the risk of bone fracture. However, there is a rare but serious side effect of these drugs called bisphosphonate related osteonecrosis of the jaw (BONJ).

There is evidence that periodontitis (gum disease) increases the risk of BONJ. Certain dental procedures, like extractions, may increase the risk for BONJ, as well.

Regular dental visits can help prevent dental disease that might lead to complications of BONJ.

