

Jaw Osteonecrosis in a Patient with Postmenopausal Osteoporosis on Antiresorptive Treatment

**Ifigenia Kostoglou-Athanassiou, Panagiotis Athanassiou,
Eleni Xanthakou, Philippos Kaldrymides**

Department of Endocrinology, Red Cross Hospital, Athens, Greece

**Department of Rheumatology, St. Paul's Hospital, Thessaloniki,
Greece**

Endocrinologist, Sparti, Greece

Department of Endocrinology, Metaxa Hospital, Pireaus, Greece

Introduction

- ❑ **Postmenopausal osteoporosis is a common condition affecting many women**
 - ❑ **Management of postmenopausal osteoporosis involves the administration of vitamin D, calcium and antiresorptive agents**
 - ❑ **The long-term management of postmenopausal osteoporosis with antiresorptive agents may present some dangers and adverse effects such as bone necrosis or atypical bone fractures**
-

Aim

- The aim was to describe the case of a female patient with postmenopausal osteoporosis who presented with acute pain in the jaw and was diagnosed with jaw osteonecrosis**
-

Methods

- ❑ **A female patient, aged 68, presented with acute pain in the left side of the mandible**
 - ❑ **X ray examination revealed jaw osteonecrosis**
 - ❑ **The patient had postmenopausal osteoporosis**
 - ❑ **She had presented with premature menopause at the age of 40 and had been treated with oestrogens**
 - ❑ **Thereafter alendronate had been administered**
 - ❑ **Alendronate was discontinued and a year later denosumab was initiated**
-

Results

- The patient presented with acute jaw pain lasting for a month
 - As she had periodontitis, she attributed the pain to this affliction
 - CT examination revealed osteonecrosis of the mandible
 - Antibiotics were administered and oral hygiene with chlorhexidine was instructed
 - The patient adhered and the pain improved, not ceasing, however, completely
-

Conclusions

- ❑ **Jaw osteonecrosis is a rare adverse effect of antiresorptive therapy for postmenopausal osteoporosis**
 - ❑ **It is known to occur especially in patients with poor oral hygiene and may be related to excessive suppression of bone turnover**
 - ❑ **It can cause diagnostic difficulties as the intense pain may be attributed to various dental problems that the patient may be experiencing**
 - ❑ **Management of jaw osteonecrosis involves the administration of antibiotics, oral hygiene with chlorhexidine and in some cases surgical removal of the affected bone**
-