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