

# The OMA Post

## Bisphosphonate-induced Osteonecrosis of the Jaw by Dr. Tracy McIntire

There has been an increasing awareness in dentistry regarding the relationship between Osteonecrosis of the jaw and Bisphosphonate therapy.

Bisphosphonate drugs, such as Aredia, Fosamax, Actonel, and Bonira are used in treatment of metastatic bone disease and osteoporosis management. Bisphosphonates are non-metabolized analogues of pyrophosphate that are capable of localizing to bone and inhibiting osteoclastic function. Once infused, bisphosphonates bind to exposed bone mineral around resorbing osteoclasts. Thus, resulting in high levels in the resorption lacunae.

Bisphosphonates are not metabolized. High concentrations stay in the

bone for long periods of time. Then it is internalized by the osteoclast, causing disruption of osteoclast-mediated bone resorption.

The result is decreased lysis of bone.

The efficacy of these agents in reducing bone pain, hypercalcemia, and skeletal complications has been extensively documented in patients with advanced breast cancer and multiple myeloma. Thus, bisphosphonates are frequently administered to those with osteolytic metastases.

There has been an increase of patients receiving bisphosphonate treatment having osteonecrosis localized to the jaw. The hypothesis is that the profound inhibition of osteoclast function im-

pairs bone remodeling and healing causing simple wounds (extraction sites) not to heal. These sites are associated with localized swelling, pain, and purulent discharge.

The management of these cases is challenging. Aggressive surgical debridement of necrotic bone has not proved efficacious. Most do not heal and continue to be sources of infection. Management strategies would be focusing on minimizing trauma to the alveolar bone and preventing the progression of secondary infections.

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, General Dentists, and medical Oncologists need to be aware of the potential complications associated with the use of these agents.

### OMA's Mission

To make a difference by touching the lives of those we serve with compassion and exceptional service.

Volume 6  
Holiday 2005

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- Kent Cohenour, DDS
- William M. Croom, DDS
- Michael T. Duffy, DDS
- Tracy McIntire, DDS
- Vincent E. Montgomery, DMD
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## Welcome, Marilyn Anderson!

OMA has a new **Implant Coordinator**. We'd like to introduce to you Marilyn Anderson. She joined OMA in October!

She arrives here from Houston, TX and has twenty years experience with the dental industry.

Although she has been in the Gulf Coast region for quite sometime, she was born and raised in Midwest City and received her BBA from OU.

She has three children and is happy to be back in her hometown.



## Introducing... Dr. McIntire

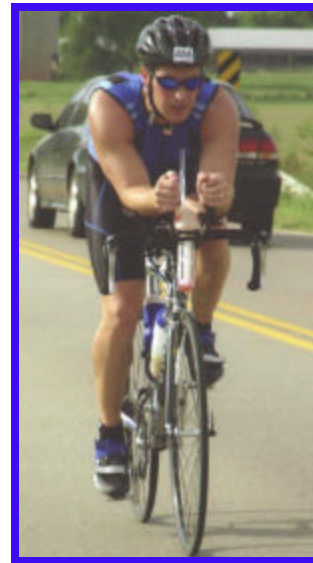
Dr. Tracy McIntire joined OMA this past Summer. He is originally from Yukon, OK. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Nazarene University. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and completed his residency at the Indiana School of Medicine.

Dr. McIntire has taken up residence with his family in Edmond. Outside of the Practice he trains and participates in Triathlons.

Areas of specialty include: Facial Cosmetic Surgery, Reconstructive Surgery, Dental Implants, and Facial Trauma Surgery. The new year ahead will be a busy year for Dr. McIntire. He and his wife are expecting the birth of their second child.

Dr. McIntire will be working with the new Professional Relations Coordinator to meet the referring dental and medical community in the OKC Metro area.

Dr. McIntire in training.



## Tips for making appointments easier...

OMA strives to make appointment scheduling simple and efficient. OMA has multiple surgeons and locations creating flexibility for our patients and their busy lifestyles.

The process of making an appointment by telephone can be easier when understanding what information our staff will need beforehand. In addition, knowing the busier call times is helpful. High call volume typically occurs on Mondays and when school is out of

session. OMA's scheduling staff is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Any patient under the age of 18 must have a parent present during the entire visit. Patients should bring x-rays and insurance cards on their initial visit. These simple things can expedite the process.

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*OMA is committed to quality, safety, and education.*

The following is a list of items that will be requested when new patients call to make an appointment:

1. The name of the insurance company
2. Policy holder's name
3. Policy holder's ID number
4. Policy holder's social security number
5. Date of birth
6. Patient's address
7. The group number
8. The referring physician's name

## New Professional Relations Coordinator

Everyone at OMA are committed to providing quality service so to enhance this commitment we have added the new position of **Professional Relations Coordinator (PRC)**. The new PRC is Michele McCarty. Her position will bring into focus the public relations and marketing aspects of the practice.

Ms. McCarty's background is a combination of Program Coordina-

tion, Public Speaking, and Community Relations. She has a BFA in Speech Communications. Among her work experience, she has worked closely with Special Events and Promotions.

If you have any concerns or suggestions how OMA can better serve you, give her a call (405) 848-7994 ext. 137

