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A vital and increasingly difficult responsibility for practicing dentists is keeping abreast of the many patient conditions and medications that affect treatment. In this issue, we alert you to some new information. And we ask you to share with your colleagues tips and resources that help you keep up-to-date for publication in our next issue by e-mailing us at [briefmailer@adamail.org](mailto:briefmailer@adamail.org).

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## OSTEONECROSIS PRECAUTION ISSUED



Cancer patients receiving intravenous bisphosphonate drugs should not be treated with invasive dental procedures. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp. sent a letter to dentists across the country, informing them that osteonecrosis of the jaw (ONJ) has been observed in cancer patients who are receiving Aredia or Zometa-bisphosphonates used to treat complications of advanced cancer known as "hypercalcemia of malignancy," bone metastases from solid tumors and other conditions.

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## What do YOU think?



How do you stay abreast of treatment considerations for your dental patients?

E-mail your response to: [briefmailer@adamail.org](mailto:briefmailer@adamail.org)

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## SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS EVALUATE SCIENCE ON WISDOM TEETH EXTRACTION AND RECALL INTERVALS



Hot Button Info

The Cochrane Collaboration recently published two systematic reviews. The Cochrane Review by Mettes et al (2005) was conducted to evaluate the effect of prophylactic removal of asymptomatic impacted third molars in adolescents and adults compared with the retention of these teeth. The Cochrane Review by Beirne, et al (2005) was conducted to evaluate beneficial and harmful effects of different recall intervals. Read summaries of each review.

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## ORAL/SYSTEMIC CONNECTION QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Dr. Michael Glick's editorial, "Exploring our role as healthcare providers: the oral-medical connection," will appear in the June 2005 issue of JADA. Dr. Glick, editor of *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, is professor and chair, department of diagnostic sciences at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's dental school. He recently took some time to respond to questions for *ADA Community Brief*.

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