

Osteoradionecrosis

What is Osteoradionecrosis (ORN)?

Osteoradionecrosis (ORN) happens when radiation damages healthy bone during cancer treatment.

This damage causes the jawbone to become exposed, making it difficult to heal. This can cause pain, swelling, sores on the gums, bad breath, and dental problems.

ORN can develop years after cancer treatment ends.

Talk with your treatment team if you have signs of ORN. You and your medical team can work together to help you heal.

Treatment

Treatments for ORN often include medicines, hyperbaric oxygen, and wound care.

We often use these medicines to treat ORN.

Trental® (pentoxifylline) 400 mg. Take 1 tablet twice each day on weekdays (Monday through Friday).

Ciprofloxacin 500 mg. Take 1 tablet every 12 hours *only on Saturdays and Sundays.*

Vitamin E 400 IU. Take one tablet every day.

Call your doctor if you develop hives, severe diarrhea, or difficulty breathing or swallowing.

Dental Work

Make sure your dentist knows about your history of cancer treatment. Before the dentist does any work on your teeth, contact our clinic. We can discuss specific steps you should take before your dental visits.

Oral Hygiene

Keeping good oral hygiene can help to keep your jaw healthy. Talk with your dentist and dental hygienist about steps you can take.

Questions?

If you have questions about ORN or your treatment, contact our clinic through MyChart or call 801-587-4566.